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THE UNDERCLIFF OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT

PAST AND PRESENT

THE UNIVERSITY PRESS

The Undercliff, I.W.—1840.

THE UNDERCLIFF

OF THE

ISLE OF WIGHT

PAST AND PRESENT

BY

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"Unfitly I these idle lines present,
The labour of lost time, and wit unstaid:
Yet if their deeper sense be inly weigh'd,
And the dim veil with which from common view
Their fairer parts are hid, aside be laid,
Perhaps not vain they may appear to you.
Such as they be, vouchsafe them to receive,
And wipe their faults out of your censure grave."

SPENSER.

TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD ALVERSTONE, G.C.M.G.,

LORD CHIEF JUSTICE OF ENGLAND,

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED

BY HIS LORDSHIP'S KIND PERMISSION.

ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA.

Page 17, line 36, *insert* quotes after "etc."
,, 17, ,, 39, *for* they cover, *read* "they cover.
,, 40, ,, 25, *delete* comma *after* "tenet."
,, 41, ,, 16, *for* "1270," *read* "1272."
,, 46, ,, 26, *for* "de I'Isle," *read* "de l'Isle."
,, 48, footnote 8, *for* "*Hist. MSS. Com.*, p. 454, Br. Mus.," *read* "*Hist. Com. MSS. App. to Report IV*, p. 454."
,, 49, ,, 4, *for* "*Hist. MSS. Com.*, p. 454," *read* "*Hist. Com. MSS. App. to Report IV*, p. 454."
,, 87, line 6, *for* "Baalam's," *read* "Balaam's."
,, 88, ,, 11, *for* "Charles Swinburne," *read* "Algernon Charles Swinburne."
,, 92, ,, 6, *for* "or an azure," *read* "or and azure."
,, 96, *delete* lines 35 and 36, and *read* "A.D. 1664, Henry Bold inst. rector."
,, 97, line 1, *for* "1805," *read* "1809."
,, 97, last line, *for* "churchshot," *read* "churchscot."
,, 101, footnote 1, *for* "Mrs. Humphrey," *read* "Mrs. Humphrey Ward."
,, 182, line 3 from end, *for* "south," *read* "north."
,, 187, footnote 1, *for* "p. 292," *read* "p. 300."
,, 187, ,, 2, *after* "*Ibid.*," *insert* "p. 292."
,, 188, line 27, *for* "p. 208," *read* "p. 205."
,, 189, ,, 15, *for* "(the lady's name is not traceable)," *read* "Johanna."
,, 189, ,, 18, *for* "Margaret Russel," *read* "Lady Denys."
,, 189, ,, 32, *for* "Kemes," *read* "Kemys."
,, 192, in pedigree, *for* "John Kemes," *read* "John Kemys."
,, 213, ,, *for* "Earl of Essex," *read* "Earl of Sussex."
,, 243, line 26, *for* "fall during," *read* "fall in during."
,, 243, ,, 28, *delete* quotes *after* "also."
,, 243, ,, 32, *delete* quotes *after* "custody."
,, 245, ,, 8, *for* "No. 2," *read* "page 246."
,, 249, ,, 15, *delete* :—, and place a full stop *after* "1632."
,, 258, ,, 14, *for* "£55. 3*s.* 8*d.*," *read* "£555. 3*s.* 8*d.*"
,, 267, plate, *for* "Mirales," *read* "Mirables."
,, 274, fourth line from bottom, *for* "A.D. 1670," *read* "A.D. 1658," and *delete* previous entry *re* Richard Pittis.
,, 276, line 6, *for* "1873," *read* "1884."
,, 283, ,, 17, *for* "2," *read* "1."
,, 291, para. 2, line 3, *after* "saunce bell," *insert* "was."
,, 292, line 2 from end, *add* quotes at commencement.
,, 300, footnote 1, *for* "*Cal. Pat. R.*, 1247—1258," *read* "*Inq. & Ass. re Feudal Aids.*"
,, 312, line 2 from end, *insert* full stop *after* "later."
,, 357, ,, 2, para. 1, *for* "is," *read* "are."
,, 364, ,, 2 from end, *for* "Metrological," *read* "Meteorological."

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.

Abbrev.	Abbreviatio.
„ Plac.	„ Placitorum.
„ Rot. Orig. ...	„ Rotulorum Originalium.
Add.	Additional.
Al. Oxon.	Alumni Oxonienses.
Antiq.	Antiquarian.
Antiqt.	Antiquities of.
App.	Appendix.
Arch.	Archæological.
Ass.	Association.
Aug. Off.	Augmentation Office.
Br. Mus.	British Museum.
Cal.	Calendar.
„ Ch. R.	„ Charter Rolls.
„ Cl. R.	„ Close Rolls.
„ Exch. R.	„ Exchequer Rolls.
„ Pat. R.	„ Patent Rolls.
„ Inq.	„ of Inquisitions.
Calend. Inq. p. m. ...	Calendarium Inquisitionum post mortem.
„ „ a. q. d. ...	„ Inquisitionum ad quod damnum.
„ Gen.	„ Genealogicum.
Cat.	Catalogue.
Ch.	Charters.
Chap.	Chapter.
Chart.	Chartarum.
Chartul.	Chartulary.
co.	county.
Cur. Reg.	Curia Regis.
D. and C.	Dean and Chapter.
Dec.	Decrees.
Dep. K. Rep.	Deputy Keepers' Reports.
Doc.	Documents.
Dom. Bk.	Domesday Book.
Eccl.	Ecclesiastical.
Edw.	Edward.
Exch. Dep.	Exchequer Depositions.
Exc. e Rot. Finium ...	Excerpta e Rotulis Finium.
Exch. M. R.	Exchequer Ministers and Receiver Accounts.
„ Q. R.	„ Queen's Remembrancer.
„ R.	„ Rolls.

Feet of F.	Feet of Fines.
G.	Guide to.
Gen.	Genealogies, Genealogical.
Geo.	George.
Geol.	Geology.
Hamp.	Hampshire.
H. F. C.	Hampshire Field Club.
H. Rec. Soc.	„ Record Society.
Hants	Hampshire.
Harl.	Harleian.
Hil.	Hilary Term.
Hist.	History, Historical.
„ I.W.	„ of the Isle of Wight.
„ MSS. Com. ...	Historical MSS. Commission.
I. A. F. A.	Inquisitions and Assessments relating to Feudal Aids.
Ibid.	In the same place.
Inst.	Instituted.
I.W.	The Isle of Wight.
Jour.	Journal.
J. Arch. Ass.	„ of the Archæological Association.
Lansd.	Lansdowne.
L. B.	Liber Regis—Bacon.
Lond.	Londinensi.
m.	membrane.
Mem.	Memoirs.
Mich.	Michaelmas Term.
MSS.	Manuscripts.
Mus.	Museum.
N. Inq. in C. Sc. ...	Nonarum Inquisitiones in Curia Scaccarii.
N. and Q.	Notes and Queries.
Northants	Northamptonshire.
Ogl. Mem.	Oglander "Memoirs."
p.	page.
Pedes F.	Pedes Finium.
Pipe R.	Pipe Rolls.
Proc.	Proceedings.
„ Soc. Antiq. ...	„ of the Society of Antiquaries.
Pub.	Publications.
„ Rec. O.	Public Record Office.
„ Somers. Rec. Soc. ...	Publications, Somerset Record Society.
Rec.	Record, Records.
Rep.	Report.

R.	Roll, Rolls.
Rot. Origin.	Rotuli Originalium.
„ „ in Curia Sc.	„ „ in Curia Scaccarii.
„ Sc. Norm.	„ Scaccarii Normanniæ. Stapleton.
Ser.	Series.
S. P. Dom.	State Papers Domestic.
Somers.	Somerset.
Sutht.	Southampton.
Subs. R.	Subsidy Rolls.
Syll. Rymer's F. ...	Syllabus Rymer's Fœdera.
T. de N.	Testa de Nevill.
Topog.	Topography, Topographical.
Trans.	Transactions.
Trin.	Trinity Term.
Typhogr.	Typographical.
V. C. H.	Victoria County History.
Vol.	Volume.
W. App.	Worsley's Appendix.
W. Hist.	„ History.
Wyk. Reg.	Wykeham's Register.
W. and W.	Woodward & Wilks.

PREFACE.

> "In my poor mind it is most sweet to muse
> Upon the days gone by; to act in thought
> Past seasons o'er."—LAMB.

THE book does not call for any lengthy preface. It is the outcome of a wish expressed to me from more than one quarter that I would reprint in book form, the papers that have been issued in various magazines (and as "Notes by the Way," published in the columns of the Local Press), at intervals during the past five years. The articles have, for the most part, been rewritten and advantage has been taken of the opportunity to incorporate much fresh material, the outcome of further modern research work at the Record Office, British Museum, etc., by my friend Mr. W. J. Parkinson Smith, of the Middle Temple, Barrister at Law.

The articles were written, in the first instance, to supply matters of local interest relating to the antiquities, topography, and genealogies of the early families who had held estates in the Undercliff of the Isle of Wight. I found that the early histories and guides to the district afforded to the enquirer very meagre and oftentimes inaccurate information on many points. I was, however, most anxious that the facts deduced from seventy years' observations on the Meteorology of the Undercliff should not be lost sight of. I trust the chapter dealing with the subject will prove instructive to many who may resort to the district, and will serve also to disabuse the minds of those who may be imbued with erroneous ideas as to the prevailing characteristics and climatic conditions.

Should some repetition be met with, or inaccuracies occur, I must hope for lenient judgment thereon. The circumstances under which the book has been written will claim some indulgence for me. The

arduous exercise of a profession particularly subject to continual interruption has left little leisure for following pursuits to which I am much attached.

It only remains for me publicly to acknowledge my very grateful thanks to the friends who have aided in the compilation of the book. My sincere and heartfelt thanks are principally due to Mr. W. J. Parkinson Smith, whose long continued and exhaustive search in the records of bygone days has furnished me with many interesting details associated with the Undercliff and the adjoining neighbourhood. His valued assistance has been most freely given at all times and in many ways, but more especially in the tedious labour he has devoted to reading over and revising the proof sheets. To Mr. John B. Hue I am indebted for much information relating to and help in compiling the genealogies of early island families, and in particular for his valued criticisms of the undated charters published in the pages of Worsley's *History of the Isle of Wight* and Hillier's unfinished work on the Antiquities, etc. My readers will appreciate my indebtedness to Mr. Percy G. Stone for the lengthened quotations I have made from his invaluable work on the Architectural Antiquities of the Island. The Rev. W. Sells has aided me in various matters referring to the Parish of Niton. My thanks are also due to Mr. Bacon for the very excellent photographs he has taken for me. I have also to express my thanks to Messrs. Seeley, Methuen, and Mate, for permission to reproduce illustrations of local scenery from blocks in their possession.

THE UNDERCLIFF.

Chapter I.

GENERAL ASPECT, DESCRIPTION, ETC.

Under the name of "The Undercliff" is included a district lying between Dunnose on the east, and a small farm called Knowles, at Rocken End on the west, a distance of between five and six miles. The popular name implies its peculiar situation—"under the cliff"; and the district was known from ancient times—as early as 1201—by the names of "Underwath" and "Underway."

One of the earliest references to the district is contained in a charter of *Alwarie de Newton, vel Niton,* granting lands *sub falasia,* i.e., under the cliff, at Niton.[1] The charter is said to be of the time of Henry the 3rd, but is, in all probability, of earlier date, *circa* 1161. The name of Underwath occurs in a charter of William de Vernon, Earl of Devon, to the monks of Lyra, one of the Norman abbeys :—

> Be it known to all present, and to come, that I, William, earl of Devon, and Lord of the Isle of Wight, have given . . . all the tithes of my Lordships in the Island which are known to belong to the same monks (that is to say) of Bovecumbe, of Wrockeshale, and of Underwath, in corn . . . .[2]

It would appear from a Subsidy Roll, 1 Edward III (1327), that the designation Wathe signified the lands below the cliffs, extending from the manor of Bonchurch on the east to Niton on the west. In the assessment list of the "Villata de Wathe" for the Feudal Aid, of that year, the names of Roberto de Merable, of Mirables, Niton, and of Willo de Holeway, of Holeway, a manor contiguous to Bonchurch, are included. A century later, in the Feudal Aid of 1431, Radulphus Dynelay is returned seised of a free tenement in Suthwathe, a property known to-day as Little Wolverton, in St. Lawrence parish.

This tract of land, varying in breadth from a quarter to half a mile, exhibits a series of irregular terraces, terminating towards the sea by a very broken and indented line of cliffs. The lower cliffs rise irregularly from the beach to a height from 20 or 30 to 100 feet to a broad sloping platform of a quarter to half a mile in width, from which ascends the second or inner cliff, its deep vertical fissures contrasting boldly with the horizontal bands of stratification so regular in their formation as to wear a semblance of masonry. The chalk down expands above all.

[1] W., *App.*, No. 67. [2] Add. MSS. No. 24,789, p. 191, Br. Mus.

The formation of the Undercliff is best explained by a reference to the geological conditions. The several strata which enter into the formation of the district belong to what is known as the Cretaceous system, and comprise three principal beds, the Upper and Lower Greensand and the Gault. The Gault, or "blue slipper," as the stratum is locally named, is a mass of impervious slippery clay, of marine origin, varying in thickness from eighty to a hundred feet, and lying between the two other principal beds or strata. The presence of the slippery Gault clay in the cliffs, somewhat above the sea level, has given rise to the extensive landslips, which form the beautiful, picturesque, and romantic scenery of the Undercliff. Not only has the Gault itself a tendency to slip, but by holding up the water the base of the porous stratum above is turned into a moving quicksand. These circumstances added to the seaward inclination or southerly dip of the hills above, amounting to 1 in 26½, have all helped to bring about the slipping of the rocks, in portions which range in size from mere blocks to masses of enormous magnitude, half a mile in length. They have broken off along the vertical joints by which the sandstone is traversed, and as their bases slid forward over the Gault, have slowly acquired a steep landward dip. The process has been repeated from time to time, thus producing at different levels the several terraces so characteristic of the Undercliff district.

"The distance to which they have descended varies indefinitely. Above Bonchurch a very long, but narrow strip has moved a few feet only, and still forms the principal face of the cliff. But many others, with a portion of Chalk above them, have descended to the beach some 300 feet below, and from a quarter to half a mile distant."[1] It is the Upper Greensand—the stratum above the Gault, remaining *in situ,* that forms a bold feature in the vertical cliff which dominates the Undercliff. The reason of the conspicuousness of this stratum, which is only from 80 to 120 feet thick, is found in the hardness of the beds of chert and freestone which it contains, especially near Ventnor. Above all is the Chalk which caps the Upper Greensand, and this in the Undercliff is of varying thickness. "On St. Boniface Down, 787 feet above Ordnance Datum, the base of the Chalk on the north side of the Down is about 450 feet above the sea, and on the south side about 300 feet, the distance across being 1,320 yards. The thickness of chalk and gravel under the highest point of the Down must be about 430 to 440 feet."[2]

"From the data it may be calculated that the southerly dip amounts to 1 in 26½, or a little less than 2°—a result which agrees with that obtained in the railway tunnel. The rails, at the south end, are about eight feet below the freestone, at the north end being about the level of the rails; the tunnel descends southwards at the rate of 1 in 173, and is about 1,300 yards in length."[3] It is the lower 200 feet of chalk that usually forms the gentle undulating downlands.

"Through the greater part of the Undercliff the slipped materials assumed a position of rest before the commencement of the historic

[1] Bristow, *Geol. of I. W.*, p. 62. [2] *Ibid.*, p. 91. [3] *Ibid.*, p. 72.

period. It seems likely that in the belt of ground occupied by the slip, the southerly dip was steeper than it is in the existing cliff, and that the strata now forming this cliff will never be in a position to slide as readily as those portions which have already gone. Still, as the sea in the course of centuries removes the fallen *débris* which forms the coast, the movements will doubtless be renewed from time to time. Indeed, at Blackgang and at Bonchurch—the west and east ends of the Undercliff, there have been great slips within the present century." "At the west end under Gore Cliff, Niton, a great slip took place in February, 1799, when a small farmhouse and about one hundred acres of land were destroyed, and the movement has been renewed from time to time ever since."[1] The east end landslip, in Bonchurch, occurred in 1810 and 1818, when from thirty to fifty acres of land were carried away, which now forms the beautiful and romantic scenery known as "The Landslip." The cliffs exposed by these slips have again assumed the time-worn aspect and weather-beaten appearance of the grand wall of the Undercliff.

That the period of the great subsidence is very remote is proved by the fact that the sites of at least two of the churches with which the tract is studded have undergone no material change. The "old church" at Bonchurch is supposed to have been built about, or even before, the period of the Conquest, and although no disturbance has apparently taken place in the ground on which it stands, still it can scarcely be believed that the face of the cliff has remained unchanged since the time of its building. Its founders would hardly have placed it within two or three hundred yards of the brink of a mouldering precipice, which, with other lands on either side, has sensibly fallen away within the past fifty years, and which is still in progress of further disintegration. Albin, in 1802, alludes "to the meadow below the church as a beautiful object, and affords a very uncommon instance of fertility so near the open sea. At the bottom of the field is an excellent little cove for bathing." In 1830 a grove of trees was standing below the church.

The central point from whence the best view of the stratification of the Upper Greensand can be obtained is the little hill which crowns the headland known by the name of "Hoody," or "Woody Point," near the Coastguard Station, St. Lawrence. (See frontispiece.) The line of stratification, when viewed from this spot, first becomes apparent just above Steephill Castle, that at Bonchurch being but dimly seen, owing to the distance, and the mass of trees and brushwood in which it is shrouded.

It is well developed just above Bank End farm. A "fault" occurs here, and instead of the continuous horizontal contour of the strata which was hitherto preserved, it dips to the westward at an angle of nearly 45°.

Advantage of this break in the continuous line of strata has been taken to make the road known as the St. Lawrence, or Whitwell

[1] Bristow, *Geol. of I. W.*, p. 61.

"Shute." It is not improbable that an aperture of some kind previously existed here, and that the valley between the downs, from which the road descends into the Undercliff, indicated the place as being the most suitable for opening up a communication with the villages in the interior of the Island.

The interruption only continues for a space of some fifty yards, ere the rocky barrier of the Undercliff again resumes its usual features. The regularity of the various strata here displayed is most striking, and the different layers may be readily studied *in situ*. At one spot, above Old Park, known as "High Hat," the chalky crown mounts to some height, and the more condensed masses which rest upon the marl rise in well-defined beds.

Proceeding westward, the chalk gradually diminishes in thickness, and the covering is inconsiderable at the defile up which the road to Niton passes. Above West Cliff House the cliff again resumes its former character, and continues with more or less variety, until it subsides into the basin of the Lower Greensand below the western face of St. Catherine's Down.

It is a matter of local interest to find that until recently no less than six island parishes extended their southern boundaries down to the sea front. In the Subsidy Roll, of 1327, the parishes are termed "Villata," *i.e.*, larger sized as contrasted with villa—a small village,[1] and are named from east to west—"Villata de Bonechirche," "de Steple," "de Wathe," "de Whitewelle," and "de Nyweton."

This involves a reference being made to several inland manors that are included within the different parish areas, and, though not strictly comprised in the Undercliff district, are yet indirectly associated with it.

It will be interesting also to ascertain the reasons leading up to this arrangement, involving so many anomalies in the size and shape of the fragments thus included within the confines of the Undercliff district. One valid reason appears to have been that "when the Lord of a manor founded a church for the use of himself and his tenants, he appropriated the tithes of his lands to his own church, and the parish was large or small in proportion to the extent of his possessions."

Thus oftentimes "the shape of the estate, with all its possible irregularities and outlying fragments—determined of necessity the size and condition of the parish, it being notorious that the boundaries of ancient parishes were co-terminous with the manors of their founders."[2] In the early days of Christianity in the Island, parishes as such, were unknown, and it would seem clear, from what has been stated, that the parish boundaries were originally defined by those of a manor or manors, since it seldom happens that a manor extends itself over more parishes than one, though there may be, and often are, several manors included in one parish.

[1] W. *Hist. I. W.*, p. 186.

[2] Capes, *Rural Life in Hampshire*, p. 20.

How far does this suggestion solve the problem? The several parishes must be taken seriatim :—

(*a.*) The parish of Bonchurch, represented by the manor, is found held by William Fitz-Azor soon after the Conquest. It is traditionally believed that a descendant built the old church. In still earlier days, even during the Confessor's reign, it would appear that a small Saxon edifice existed here on the same site. The manor was then included in the wide possessions of Earl Godwine, who probably endowed the little church in accordance with the then existing law.

(*b.*) The parish of Newchurch. The southern extension was formed by the ancient manor of Holeway, on which the modern town of Ventnor is built, and extended from Bonchurch to the confines of Steephill. It would seem probable that both the foregoing parishes were constituted in very early days. Had this not been so, it would have seemed a natural and obvious arrangement to have added this small Fitz-Azor estate to the small parish adjoining, when the estates changed their ownership. This would have done away with the anomaly of a small holding having its parochial church distant six miles inland, and practically inaccessible to the local householders owing to the condition of the roads. The south transept of the parish church was probably built by an early member of the Fitz-Azor family, and the tithes coming from the Ventnor estate may have been bestowed as part of the endowment fund.

(*c*) The parish of Godshill, containing six thousand five hundred acres, included the small Steephill estate of one hundred and fifty acres as the Undercliff moiety. Steephill belonged to the same family, and was possibly managed by the bailiff of Rewe manor, lying on the northern boundary. The heriot due in 1272, from John, of Stepletone, was paid to the Rewe bailiff. The parish church was inaccessible, as in the previous instance, on account of the distance, etc.

(*d*) The parish of St. Lawrence was the smallest of all the island parishes. The manor constituting it belonged originally to the ancient Norman family of De Aula. The parish church, it is thought, was founded by an early member and endowed with the manorial tithes, together with the great tithes of "Le Spanne," a De Aula estate situated in Godshill parish.

(*e*) The parish of Whitwell comprised, in the Undercliff extension, the three estates of Old Park, Mirables, and Wolverton, belonging to the De Estur family. A member of this family built and endowed the north chapel for the use of the tenants on their Undercliff estates, and dedicated it to St. Radegund—the patron saint of the De Estur family.

(*f*) The parish of Niton has a part of the parish included in the confines of the Undercliff. The church is not far removed from the southern boundary and was easy of access.

Another suggestion has been offered to account for the anomaly, that free access to the sea frontage was of importance to a number of the village parishioners residing inland, whose avocation was that of fishermen, or who depended in a measure upon "the harvest of the sea." It

might conceivably have been of pecuniary importance to the different lords of manors entitling them to claim a part of the "spoils of the sea," coming ashore in the shape of wreckage, etc.

A knowledge of the general appearance of the Undercliff will be readily gained if viewed from the sea, from the higher elevation of the downs, or lastly, by a pleasant walk through the centre of the district, extending from Bonchurch, through Ventnor, and on by the main road past St. Lawrence to Niton and Blackgang.

FROM THE SEA.

The outline of the Undercliff is bold and striking, and includes the range of lofty chalk-capped hills which extend the whole distance from Dunnose to Blackgang, and whose substrata form the striking wall of rock so peculiar to the district. Passing the well-known headland of Dunnose, which seamen in earlier days anxiously endeavoured to steer clear of, the first object which attracts notice is the charming residence of East Dene, the gardens and grounds of which present prospects of rare beauty. Bonchurch, embosomed in its ivy-clad rocks and trees, giving it the appearance of perpetual summer, and whose venerable church and pretty villas break the sameness of the scenery, leaves hardly anything to wish to the admirers of the beautiful and romantic.

The general appearance of Ventnor viewed from the sea front, a little distance from the shore, is both picturesque and striking, with the houses irregularly perched tier above tier from the water's edge, clustered about the base of the down, or mounting its lower slopes, like the terraced villages on the blue Italian lakes.

The range of mural cliffs is here wanting, but its place is supplied by the smooth chalk down which rises behind the town to a height of between seven and eight hundred feet. The glaring effect and the sense of newness complained of in earlier years has been toned down by time, and now the rich masses of foliage, the dark green ivy, and other creepers contrast pleasantly with the prevailing sand-coloured stone of which the houses are built.

After passing Ventnor the sea cliffs rise to a considerable height, and with the undulating tracts of downland in the foreground, form part of the recently acquired public recreation grounds. The view of Steephill Castle, with the Cove and the fishermen's huts, may well bear the proud title of the "Gem of the Undercliff." The romantic looking sea cliffs known as "Western Lines" are a favourite spot for the geologist. In close proximity are the grounds attached to the Royal National Hospital for Diseases of the Chest, and a good view of the detached blocks of buildings can be had standing out from the rest of the landscape.

Various little bays and coves now pass in review as we proceed westward along the coast, backed, every now and then, by the different villas and cottages which give variety to the scene. St. Lawrence, with its old and new churches, forms a pleasing foreground to the rocky wall, which here assumes a definite form, and exhibits well the upper strata

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A View of the Undercliff near Gore Cliff, Niton.

of the geological features of the spot. The weather-worn face of this remarkable barrier, from having lost the softer parts of its formation, breaks with its rugged points the formal appearance it would have presented, had it been merely a scarped rock.

As the westward course is continued Old Park is seen through its foliage, the trees showing some lateral inclination from the strong current of air which "sets" in through the "Whitwell Shute." Here the inner cliff attains its greatest height and rises to a peak known as "High Hat." Mirables and The Orchard speedily follow, and aid in adorning a scene whose "beauty is a joy for ever."

Puckaster Cove next claims attention; here Charles II "triumphed o'er the storm" and landed in 1675. The Cottage is sweetly situated, and its grounds approach nearer than any other to those of Steephill in perfection of romantic scenery. St. Catherine's Terrace, Point, and Lighthouse are all conspicuous objects.

After passing St. Catherine's headland the coast trends to the south-west, and is open to the full force of the gales during the winter months:—

When the wintry winds set in and clouds
Darken St. Cath'rine's proud, majestic cone.

The eye rests upon little but a chaos of desolate barrenness, until the far-famed Blackgang Chine is reached, and the background is closed by the bold escarpment of rock called "Gore Cliff."

This tract was the scene of the landslip of 1799; the ground still lies in waves or folds like billows of an agitated ocean. In summer the extreme purity and salubrity of the air, vies with the mountain-breeze in giving elasticity to the step and vigour to the frame, rendering this spot a delightful and healthful resort.

FROM THE DOWNS.

Having viewed the Undercliff from the sea it will now be convenient to glance at the protective line of Downs, which forms the northern boundary of the district. Owing to the difficulty of access, the magnificent views which may be obtained, and the exhilarating breezy atmosphere which may be enjoyed on their summit, are, to a large extent lost to the visitors who resort to the district.

From the summit of the Downs the view is a panorama of perfect harmony—the far off sea alive with the reflection of the fleecy clouds, the sinuous coast line, stretching for miles from St. Catherine's Point back to Dunnose, affording at all times a variety of ever changing maritime scenery which cannot fail to entertain. It is not an infrequent occurrence to witness a fleet of between two and three hundred vessels passing by in a short space of time.

To those who are in the habit of climbing the ascent words fail to fitly describe the buoyant sense of exhilaration felt on reaching the summit. It has been said, "the ascent is steep enough to test the soundness of your lungs, the distance is easily conquered, but the triumph is

no evanescent one, miles of the easiest, breeziest, springiest, blithest walking are before you, in an atmosphere the purity of which may be felt, and gives a bounding motion to your step. Then what peeps of splendid scenery you get, now on this side of the Island, now on that, as with freshened spirits you almost dance along, and always with the blue sea as the conspicuous feature of the scene. Here you may drink in health as you drink in pleasure, and enjoy a continuous glow of excitement which is followed by no reactionary lassitude."

Another writer says :—" In the summer time, unlike many other seaside places, the life at Ventnor does not all run down to the shore, but rather up the steep roads that lead to the superb altitude of the Downs, looking out upon miles of water, and the well tempered breezes playing with delightful freedom, fresh from the sea. Who," he adds, " can in a few sentences exhaust the beauties of nature? He will find on every hand scenes of beauty, such as within the same compass no other place frequented by visitors can show."

A WALK THROUGH THE UNDERCLIFF.

To complete our description, a walk through the centre of the district must be taken, from Dunnose on the east to Niton on the west, some five or six miles in length, but they are such miles as are not for their singularity, perhaps, to be paralleled in this country.

The approach from Luccombe is by the steep hill called " White Shute." Not very many years ago this was a rugged and somewhat dangerous pass, rendering a visit to the Undercliff by this road a matter of adventure. The danger has passed away, for a new line of road with a more gradual inclination now leads to Ventnor. At an altitude of some three hundred and fifty feet a road—the Leeson Road—runs for half a mile along the edge of the cliff. Looking down into the billowy sea of foliage the little village of Bonchurch nestles itself, softly and unobtrusively. From hence the terraced formation, characteristic of the district, is seen clearly defined. Descending the hill we come to the second terrace, a hundred feet lower down. A line of detached villas, headed by the well-known Hotel, is seen, backed by the natural wall of cliff reaching to the terrace above.

Continuing the descent, the road winds under a great rock to a gateway giving entrance to the " New Church " erected in 1847-8. The churchyard lies under the side of the hill, embosomed in foliage, and a greener and sweeter place than this is not to be found, even in England. The sites for the church and churchyard, and for the schools and parsonage, were given by the Rev. James White and Rear-Admiral and Lady Jane Swinburne respectively.

The entrance to the romantic village of Bonchurch is soon reached, and here the road divides, the one to the right leading by " Shepherd's Lane " through the valley, with its avenue of elm trees, to Ventnor. The path to the left leads down past the ivy covered lodge and gates of East

Entrance to Landslip at East End.

Dene to the "Old Church" and to the Landslip at East End. Here is one of the most delightful rambling grounds in the kingdom, where visitors may linger for hours with enjoyment. The romantic wildness is due to a series of landslips; the latest occurred as recently as 1818, though nature has again clothed the ruins in a garment of loveliness.

Leaving Bonchurch by "Shepherd's Lane" we reach Ventnor, the capital town of the Undercliff. Ventnor is not a town in the ordinary sense of the word, and has suffered much from the absence of a good ground landlord. The romantic beauty of the situation has been marred by the absence of all uniformity in the arrangement of the houses, and the incongruity of the architectural styles which have been followed. Yet despite these various drawbacks, steady progress has been made in the development and improvement of the town. The absence of foliage, complained of in earlier years, has largely disappeared, for, as a recent writer says, "the atmosphere of Ventnor revels in a spirit of leafy and floral decoration, the ivies and other creepers grow all the year round, clothing the house fronts with their green enamel."

For the pedestrian Ventnor is the centre for delightful walks, east or west, along the cliffs—or inland, and these at a distance of a few minutes' walk from any part of the town. The main road through the Undercliff was declared by Canon Venables to be "the most perfectly beautiful route in England; there can hardly be anywhere found five miles which combine so many elements of the picturesque."

On leaving Ventnor the south side of the road bounds the Public Recreation Grounds, and from the upper part of the level plateau in the gardens a glorious stretch of varied scenery of earth, sea, and sky is displayed in all directions. "The beauty of the park," writes Sir Lawrence Peel, "has almost every advantage that a piece of ground can have; earth, sea, and sky seem to vie which can adorn it most, as landscape and seapiece visible from the grounds above of unexampled beauty." On the sides of the hill, sloping down to the sea, paths have been made and seats conveniently placed for the use of visitors.

Passing Steephill, which is considered the most sheltered spot in the Undercliff, for in the grounds tender exotics and a variety of rare trees and plants flourish, we soon reach the site of the Royal National Hospital, the Sanatorium occupying some twenty acres of ground in this most sheltered and sunny situation. The grounds surrounding the Institution have been planted with specimen trees and flowering shrubs such as readily thrive in the Undercliff. A recent visitor, referring to the rich masses of coloured foliage displayed here, says:—"It must convince the most sceptical that here at last is a refuge from the cold winds or chilly breezes, for we have in the winter a hundred flowers and shrubs blooming with the greatest luxuriance, usually associated with the months of June or July." Here is indeed a variety "that to be loved needs only to be seen," and much to entitle it to the word "National," as adopted by the Hospital. Every fortunate circumstance seems aggregated to constitute this one of the most favoured of sanatoria.

Continuing our walk along a mile of tolerably level and sheltered road, we soon reach the village of St. Lawrence. The rocky wall on the north, which becomes lost at St. Boniface, again appears in all its romantic beauty, "stained with a thousand hues, and draped with luxuriant foliage." "The road," writes Mr. Thorne, "rises and falls in constant change, but is never steep enough to make the way toilsome to the feeblest pedestrian." On reaching the group of elm trees known as "The Seven Sisters," the road divides, the upper road leading to the Old Church, from whence a fine view eastwards of the line of cliffs and the whole range of the Undercliff can be seen at a glance, while the lower road continues past the New Church to the boundary of the Old Park estate, where the two roads again join.

"Old Park" forms a part of the parish of Whitwell. The exposure is a more open one, the protective foliage being absent, but the scenery still remains of the most enchanting description.

Until quite recently, the old road, after passing the "toll gate," continued by a narrow winding uphill and down dale sort of lane, with the overhanging cliffs towering directly above on the one side and the open sea on the other, until Mirables was reached. By the joint exertions of General Sir John Cheape and Mr. Martin, this picturesque old road has been diverted and the present excellent highway substituted.

The Old Park estate, in the hands of the late lamented proprietor, promised to give us a "New Ventnor," embodying the large philanthropic views that actuated all Mr. Spindler's efforts. This part of the Undercliff, extending from the old toll gate to Mirables, offered a magnificent field for enterprise, and in its development all Mr. Spindler's characteristic energies were called forth. To give the protection which plantations of trees suitably placed afford, by breaking the force of the wind on the more exposed parts of the estate, was the first object kept in view. The ground was carefully prepared and a million trees planted out on the various sites. These are now rapidly growing, and admirably fulfil the purpose for which they were planted. Roads were planned, the purity and abundance of the water supply attended to, and the drainage of the estate laid out on the latest scientific principles, when the district was suddenly deprived of its benefactor, and it is left to the care of others to see that his far-reaching designs are not thwarted.

The main road, after passing through the estate, continues past Mirables through what is considered by many the most beautiful portion of the route. I cannot refrain from quoting Mr. Miall :—

As to the picturesque loveliness of the neighbourhood, it is too well known to need, and too perfect of its kind, to bear description. On a small scale, so that the eye and mind can take it all in, it contains nearly all the elements of pictorial beauty, sea, cliffs, woods, precipitous walls of furrowed rocks, and sweet peaceful vales of emerald green, so charmingly intermingled as to suggest that it must have been laid out in conformity with artistic rules. There is not a more bewitching walk than the winding road which runs along the base of the Undercliff; the scenery never palls upon you, it is always fresh and full of life, gentle but not effeminate in its character, and Ventnor is girded round with these pictorial gems, all of them lying within the compass of half a dozen miles.

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The "Undercliff Road" near Mirables.

On reaching the summit of the hill in the broken ground, Puckaster Cove is seen to the left, and on the right is the foot track leading to "Cripple Path," a steep ascent to the upper cliff, here probably some two hundred feet in height, whence a glorious sea-view is obtained. A mile beyond, the road branches inland to Niton and onwards past the Sandrock Hotel to Blackgang. A delightful and most enjoyable return walk from Niton to Whitwell and Ventnor can be taken by the upper cliff, the pathway being ten to fifteen feet from the outer edge.

Between Ventnor and Whitwell a new public highway has been made. It is quite certain that no matter of greater importance to the well-being of the district has been carried out for many years past. It provides much needed facilities for getting to the centre of the Island, and will thus prove a great boon to visitor and resident alike.

Chapter II.

OF THE UNDERCLIFF IN PREHISTORIC TIMES.

Of the Undercliff of the Isle of Wight in prehistoric times little is known. That successive races of primeval man did visit and settle in the district, for varying periods of time, is more than probable.

The earliest period—known as the Stone Age—when flints were the only implements with which man could then furnish himself, has been subdivided into the Palæolithic, or Early, and the Neolithic, or Later Stone Age. Of the Early Stone Age little is known. It is impossible to say when the Palæolithic hunter first appeared on the scene. He belongs to the oldest, earliest, least civilised, and the most widely distributed of the early races of mankind visiting the county of Hampshire, of which the Isle of Wight then formed an integral part. "When man first appeared the climate and the geography were entirely different from those of to-day. The whole county stood at least 600 feet, and probably more, above its present level, and the Isle of Wight overlooked the valley of the Solent and the still greater valley of the Channel, in the shape of a range of forest-clad hills."[1]

There are no local evidences of the presence of Palæolithic man in the Undercliff itself, but abundant traces of the rude flint implements appertaining to him have been found on the high grounds in the neighbourhood of Bembridge, Foreland, Sea View, and especially in the parts around Southampton.[2] In Morey's recently published work on the *Natural History of the Isle of Wight* is recorded a discovery of Palæolithic flint implements at Priory Bay, on the north-east coast of the Island, by Professor Poulton.

Of the "Neolithic," or "Later Stone Age," no certain data exist for the commencement of this period. There was probably no marked difference between this age and the one which preceded it. The physical conditions, however, were greatly altered. "The surface of the land in its general outline would resemble in the main what it is to-day, the downs a little higher, the valleys not so deep, the coast line extending further out in the English Channel, whilst a dense forest extended over the Island—which still formed part of the mainland—as far as the dry grassy slopes of the chalk downs, and in it the wild animals, now extinct, roamed through the woods. Since that time rivers, rains, and floods have modified the surface, and these changes have been going on during the thousands of years since the men of the later Stone age first took up

[1] V. C. H., *Early Man*, vol. i, p. 253.

[2] Windle, *Remains of the Prehistoric Age in England*, p. 62.

their quarters here."[1] They were a dark, short, long skulled, pastoral race, a non-Aryan stock, whose burial places were long, oval shaped mounds. No specimens of these burial mounds have, so far, been found in the Island, but examples of the stone weapons used by Neolithic men, together with other evidences, to be subsequently referred to, clearly point to the presence of this race of people in the Isle of Wight.

An example of a weapon—a tri-brachial flint, characteristic of this age, was found at Ventnor and deposited in the Ryde Museum. "This well chipped weapon looks like a barbed spear head. It is large and heavy, and of rare, if not unique shape—an unpolished specimen."[2] This implement was exhibited by Colonel Lane Fox at a meeting of the Society of Antiquaries, March 23rd, 1871.[3] At the dispersal of the Ryde collection the specimen passed into the possession of Mr. G. W. Colenutt, of that town.

A stone celt—a term used for an axe-head, whether of stone or bronze—was found some years ago at "Hillyards," near Shanklin, and was late in the collection of Mr. C. Roach Smith. In August, 1909, a polished flint celt, 6in. long and 2½in. at the broadest extremity, was found on the Down, above the Ventnor Isolation Hospital, by labourers engaged in digging road material, consisting mainly of cracked flints. The implement is now in the possession of Mr. H. F. Poole, of Shanklin.

On the 7th of July, 1910, this gentleman found a well marked flint-flake of the Neolithic period, at the Bonchurch end of the Landslip. It was exposed in the face of a recent slip 9in. from the surface. Flakes of this kind, Mr. Poole writes, "are common enough in many spots in the Isle of Wight, but this is the first I have found in the Ventnor district."

"Excavations in a rough piece of garden ground at Winterbourne, Bonchurch, brought to light a flint arrow-head, a scraper, and what appears to be a spear head with the top fractured. This latter implement had been thrown aside probably on account of its broken condition."[4] The spear head, however, has been pronounced by a late observer to be a natural slip of chert showing no evidence of human use.

Among other remains of men in this early stage of rude civilisation are the numerous refuse heaps, or "Kitchen Middens" as they are called, discoveries of which are frequently made in different parts of the Undercliff. One of these refuse heaps was formerly to be traced up the stream leading from the shore towards the Old Church at Bonchurch. The falling away of the soil which formed its banks exposed an underlying layer containing large quantities of limpet and winkle shells and numerous bones of animals, including those of the horse, ox, deer, and the tusk of the wild boar, also a portion of a magnificent antler, which once graced the front of a huge red deer.

When digging in the old churchyard at a depth of some feet below the surface, which is here composed of a thick stratum of vegetable

[1] T. W. Shore, *Hist. of Hamp.*, p. 13.

[2] Lockhart, *Guide I. W.*, p. 36.

[3] *Archæol. Jour.*, vol. xxx, p. 29.

[4] Norman, *Geol. G. I. W.*, p. 198.

mould, interspersed with loose stones from the adjoining Upper Greensand formation, heaps of periwinkle and limpet shells are turned up, and excavators find the same layer extending below the foundations of the Old Church. In the grounds of Underrock the jaw of a crocodile and the horns of a wild bull, the Celtic shorthorn, *Bos longifrons,* were discovered. A skull of this animal was found in the Bonchurch quarries, and, in a crevice of the rock, a bed of cockles, eighteen inches in thickness, was exposed. As no cockles could have been obtained nearer than Brading Haven, this doubtless formed a prehistoric refuse heap.

During the year 1904 a large collection of limpet and winkle, together with a few oyster shells, spread over an area of four yards in length and eighteen inches deep, closely packed together, was exposed by the subsidence of the surface land near the entrance to the landslip. It was not possible to ascertain how far in the opposite direction the refuse heap extended. The depth of the virgin soil covering the shells was nearly two feet. This collection would seem to denote the presence of an early race or tribe of people, probably Celts, who largely depended on a fish supply.

In the Ventnor Museum is a genuine stag-horn pick, found in 1888, with other bones of deer, etc., in digging the foundations of houses at the bottom of the High Street, on the spot where the Crown Inn formerly stood. This is an unique implement for the Isle of Wight, and is most probably of the Neolithic Age.

At St. Lawrence, during the construction of the railway, and on the site where the station now stands, the horns of a red deer were unearthed and quite recently, in 1909, a specimen of a Celtic shorthorn was found embedded in the sea cliffs. The remains became exposed by the crumbling away of the surrounding earth. Further evidence of the presence of Neolithic man in the Undercliff is supplied by two flint flakes, found at St. Lawrence, and now deposited in the Ventnor Museum. In a paper contributed to the Journal of the Anthropological Institute by Mr. Hodder M. Westropp, some interesting statements relating to the later Neolithic period are made. "On making the new entrance to Steephill Castle some years ago, a 'Kitchen Midden' was discovered. It consisted of heaps of limpet shells intermingled with fragments of rude pottery, and the bones and horns of the ox. It is doubtless of a very early period and of a very rude and primitive age, as the pottery found in it is very rude and coarse, the ornamentation being done by laying a string on the wet clay." Mr. Westropp remarks later—"The rude fragments of pottery found near Steephill Castle evidently belong to the Stone Age."[1]

THE BRONZE AGE.

The Neolithic settlers were ultimately conquered by an Aryan race coming over from the Continent in two distinct immigrations. They were divisions of the same Celtic people, but their advents to the Island

[1] *Jour. of Anthrop. Inst.*, vol. vii, p. 199, 1878.

were widely separate in point of time. The Celts of the earlier immigration, known as Goidels or Gaels, were a tall, broad, round-headed people, with fair hair and complexion, high foreheads and aquiline noses. They brought with them a higher civilisation, including a knowledge of the making and use of bronze, by means of which they eventually conquered their predecessors. The men of this race cremated their dead and over the ashes, either put into a funeral urn or with an urn inverted over them, raised the round tumuli found on the summit of the chalk downs. During this age the Isle of Wight must still have been one continuous forest, broken only by large, open areas of chalk down-lands. It was still united with the mainland, though it is supposed to have become an island at some period in the interval between this age and the Iron age which followed.

"In excavating for the foundations of a house at Gil's Cliff, near Ventnor," writes Mr. Westropp in the Journal from which I have already quoted, "'a kitchen midden' was lately discovered. In it were found several fragments of pottery, bones and shells. A fine example of a stone-hammer, or, more probably, a corn crusher, was also found. It is eight inches long, with a circular indentation in the centre. In shape it exactly resembles those found in Scandinavia, as figured in Wilson's *Stone Age,* and in Evans' *Ancient Stone Implements.*"[1]

When making the upper part of the new winding road through the Steephill estate near the inner cliff, extensive traces of a further refuse heap and a fire place in connection were exposed to view. "Among the remains"—writes Mr. Westropp—"were found a large quantity of charcoal and some large stones, exhibiting deep traces of the action of fire, together with a number of small round pebbles. In close proximity to the fire place was the 'Kitchen midden,' or refuse heap, where were found numbers of limpet shells, oyster shells, cockles, etc., thickly massed together; and in conjunction with these were several bones of the ox, sheep, pig, etc. Intermingled in this heap were fragments of pottery of Roman and Romano-British manufacture. Two rubbing stones also turned up, which were used for grinding corn. Several nodules of iron pyrites were met with, evidently used for striking fire. The most remarkable find in this 'Kitchen midden' was a small cinerary urn, five inches in width, nearly perfect. It is of an unusual shape, and presents a peculiar and very rare style of ornamentation, consisting of a band of coralline sea-weed round it. A fragment of another urn was also found, presenting the same ornamentation." Mr. Westropp remarks later—"From the marked difference of the pottery found in the several 'Kitchen middens,' near Ventnor, it is evident they belong to different periods. The pottery found in Gil's Cliff must be of later date, as it is made of fine clay and of a black colour, while the ornamentation is very elaborate and carefully traced in diagonals with a stick in the wet clay." Mr. Westropp says finally—"The fragments in Gil's Cliff appear to be of the Bronze Age."[2]

[1] *Jour. of Anthrop. Inst.*, vol. vii, p. 199, 1878.

[2] Westropp, *Jour. of Anthrop. Inst.*, vol. vii, 1878.

When excavating for building purposes in the Grove Road, a short distance below the railway station, the labourers came upon a "refuse heap" containing limpet shells and bones, a cooking stone, and various remains of human beings. Among them were jaw and thigh bones which were broken. The lower jaw contained four or five molar teeth, much worn; they were pronounced by an expert to be those of a deformed low-typed savage of gigantic stature. "The skull was too much decayed for preservation, but the jaw and other bones were placed in the Ventnor Museum."[1]

The workmen engaged in quarrying stone at the old quarry to the east of the Ventnor railway station, brought to light, at a depth of over 20 feet, a number of human and other remains, including parts of three skulls, leg, back, and arm, bones, etc. The bones were soft and friable, and crumbled away on being touched. They were evidently of great antiquity. None of the bones were found in skeleton formation. This is accounted for by the fact that a land slide had taken place at the spot where they were discovered, for within a yard or two the rock rises abruptly to a height of 30 feet. The earth in which the remains were found embedded is the usual subsoil of the downs (of which the quarry forms the lower slopes). At a depth of three or four feet, within a few yards of the bones, a roughly formed stone oven, or fire place, with burnt ashes inside, was laid bare.

"A bronze celt with straight borders and very slightly raised edges, in a beautiful state of preservation," belonging to the period 1550-1300 B.C., was obtained by Dr. Ernest Wilkins, fourteen feet from the surface in a bed of peat, at Billingham, near Chale. It is now deposited in the Newport Museum.[2]

An important find of some thirty socketed bronze celts was made during the construction of the Central Isle of Wight Railway terminus at the Ventnor Town Station, on a spot now covered by the goods shed. The site is marked on the Popham Estate map, of 1729, as "Home Close," and this enclosure was in near proximity to the disused "Old Roman Road," where Mr. Westropp (forty years ago) made the discoveries already referred to. The ground, prior to the purchase by the Railway Company, formed the kitchen garden of Steephill Castle. The celts were found underneath a large mass of rock that had fallen, centuries earlier, from the upper cliff. The block of stone, on being raised by engine power, exposed a cavity in which the celts were embedded. The photos represent two of the implements now in the possession of Colonel Jolliffe, of Bonchurch, and purchased by him direct from two of the labourers present at the discovery. The facts narrated above were vouched to by Charles Dyer, who received the larger of the two celts from "the ganger" in charge of the navvies. Four of the celts are said to have been sent for examination to the British Museum, but on inquiry no trace could be found in the registers. The larger of the specimens is 5 inches in length, $1\frac{1}{8}$ in width at the socketed end, tapering to $1\frac{1}{2}$ at

[1] Westropp, *Jour. of Anthrop. Inst.*, vol. vii, 1878.

[2] E. Wilkins, *Antiqt. of I. W.*, p. 52.

Photo by] [H. B. Bacon.

Bronze Celts found at Steephill.

the sharper end. The smaller celt was $2\frac{7}{8} \times \frac{7}{8} \times \frac{3}{4}$ inches at the corresponding points. On being examined quite recently by an expert at the British Museum the following opinion was given by Mr. Reginald A. Smith. "The celts are genuine, and of the 5th to the 7th century B.C. They are of a type rarely found in the South of England, but common in Northern France. The larger is after a Brittany model and the smaller similar to Jersey celts." He further expressed an opinion that "they were imported during the Bronze Age from the opposite coast by traders, or possibly fishermen." A third specimen was found by Mr. H. F. Poole in possession of the late Dr. Brumwell's nephew. It is a counterpart of the smaller celt, and belonged to the same hoard. Mr. Poole adds :—"Unfinished implements, the cutting part never having been brought to an edge, and the joints of the mould showing on the sides, so that they could never have been in use. The socket of Dr. Brumwell's celt, submitted by him to the British Museum Authorities in 1901, contains traces of the original clay core still adhering to the sides."

THE IRON AGE.

The Iron Age may be said to have commenced about 850 B.C. The Belgæ were Celts of the later immigration and crossed over from Gaul. They were otherwise known as the Brythons, or Britons. This people brought over with them a knowledge of the manufacture and use of iron. It was they whom Vespasian found in occupation A.D. 43. He is said to have subdued them. The Britons did not raise mounds over their dead, and we cannot point to any discoveries of early weapons or implements which enable us to identify the interments belonging to this race, as we can those in the two preceding periods. Iron rapidly oxidises, changing into a state differing but little from the preparation of iron with which the clays and sandstones of the district are stained. This may possibly account for the fact that so few weapons belonging to this period have been found in the locality.

One of the series of "Kitchen Middens" described by Mr. Westropp would appear to belong to this period :—"At the upper part of the Steephill quarry, two or three feet below the surface (says Mr. Westropp), we found a layer of angular flints, a layer of dark coloured ashes containing round pebbles from the shore beneath, limpet and other shells, broken pottery of coarse and fine workmanship, iron nails, and bones of ox, deer, sheep, etc. In any case these collections would appear to represent different stages of civilisation of a low type, where shell fish formed the chief food material, etc., and though affording no safe test of age, they cover the whole field from Palæolithic to modern times, some being very old, others still in progress, so that each collection must be taken on its merits."[1]

THE TUMULI ON THE DOWNS.

The most remarkable prehistoric antiquities in the Island are to be found in the "tumuli" or "barrows" (so termed when composed of

[1] Windle, *Remains of the Prehistoric Age in England*, p. 67.

chalk, sand, or soil, and called cairns when formed of stones alone) on the downs, and these furnish the most ancient form of sepulchral monument.

The simplicity of the original mound, consisting of little more than a heap of stones, or a pile of earth, has served to perpetuate its continuance, and rendered it a far more permanent memorial of the dead than most other forms which have succeeded, "whether as Priories or Chantries established to commemorate their founders' piety centuries after these tumuli were raised, and which have long since passed away or been transformed."[1]

Modern research has shown that these mounds exist in two distinct forms, (*a*) the long, and (*b*) the round, and that the two varieties belonged respectively to two distinct races whose form of interment differed. In the earliest days, even as now, two methods of burial were in vogue, inhumation on the one hand, and cremation, with the subsequent deposition of the ashes in a grave mound, tumulus, or crypt on the other. The inhumation method was the earlier in point of time, subsequently, during what is known as the Neolithic and Bronze ages, both methods were followed, the difference in the mode of sepulture being due to racial or religious distinctions.

The "long barrow" is the characteristic place of burial of the people of the later Stone age—the Neolithic men. It is the earliest form of artificial burial with which we are acquainted. It was a tribal, or family burying place—the equivalent of the modern family vault. The Undercliff downs furnish no example of a long barrow, so that only the briefest reference is called for. This form of tumulus is found elsewhere singly, in isolated positions, and the gifts placed in it at the time of the interment were few, consisting of rude flint implements and rough pottery. The skulls found in these tumuli belong to a long-headed race. Where cremation has not taken place, examination of the barrows has shown that the race who made them buried their dead in a contracted position. The mound in many cases was afterwards re-visited from time to time for the purpose of a fresh interment, or for some religious observance, when fresh additions of soil were made, reverence of ancestors being one of the earliest forms of primitive religion.

The "round barrow" is the form with which the Undercliff is more immediately concerned, and examples in contradistinction to the former class are generally found grouped together on the downs, often in close proximity to old trackways, or to prehistoric fortified places. These circular mounds were made by the Goidels, and belong to the Bronze Age. They were usually raised over the remains of some one distinguished person, and were not intended to be opened for further burials, though it is not uncommon to find that later secondary interments have been made.

In contradistinction to the long barrows, these tumuli are widely distributed, for some four hundred are known to exist on the Island and in the county on the mainland. The bodies were either inhumed or

[1] Shore, *Hist. of Hamp.*, p. 11.

cremated, and there is no evidence to show which custom was the earlier in point of time, since both forms were practised during the same period determined by the wish of the relatives, or at the expressed direction of the dead person. If unburnt, the remains were usually in a contracted position, very rarely in an extended one. If burnt, the ashes were usually laid on the ground under an inverted urn, or collected and put into a cinerary urn, which was the common method of disposal, followed by the early race. Amongst the Romans the urns were most commonly found with the mouth upwards, and (when full of bones) covered with a tile. The gifts buried with the dead were numerous, consisting of implements of stone or bronze of early types, pottery, ornaments of amber and jet, with an occasional one of gold. The pottery belongs to the Neolithic and Bronze periods only, and of the many specimens found no material difference exists between the earlier and later dates. Perhaps the articles appertaining to the Bronze period are smaller in point of size, with thinner walls, and made of finer paste, being always hand-made without a wheel, and burnt in the open fire, not in a kiln. They were never glazed with true glaze, showed no signs of colour, and were almost always ornamented with patterns of a geometrical character, sunk in the clay, the use of raised bands being rare.

It is interesting to know that at Barnes, near Shorwell, on the south side of the Island, not far removed from the Undercliff district, "the site of a Romano-British pottery was discovered, and thoroughly examined by Messrs. Kell and E. Wilkins, in 1856, after having been excavated for a length of sixty feet. It is considered that this was merely the edge of a widely-extended pottery, the remainder with the kilns having been removed with the cliff by the waves of the English Channel. Specimens of the Celtic, Roman, and Saxon eras were found, and these were deposited in the Newport Museum. Conclusive evidence was afforded that the manufacture was carried on by successive races at the same locality. Many of the urns found in the barrows and cemeteries of the Island correspond in form and material with those discovered here."[1]

The best examples of round tumuli to be seen in the Undercliff are a group of three, standing amidst the furze bushes on the summit of Week Down, six hundred feet above the sea level, in a field locally known as "Great Down," situated on the left-hand side of the pack road leading over the downs from St. Lawrence to Wroxall, and distant one and a half furlongs from the boundary line separating the two parishes of St. Lawrence and Godshill.

The central mound has a circumference of 300 feet. The other two mounds are smaller, but quite distinct. These tumuli must have stood here for more than three thousand years, and we can readily imagine them to have been striking objects when they were first raised. "Though so long a period has elapsed, and the tumuli have been exposed to all the vicissitudes of the weather, with its storms of wind and rain, they still remain mementos of a primeval race who settled on our hills long ages before the Romans came to our shores."[2]

[1] Lockhart, *G. of I. W.*, p. 40. [2] Shore, *Proc. H. F. C.*, vol. iii, p. 56.

The barrows on Week Down were examined by the Rev. J. Wilson, of Oxford, during the summer of 1825, Mr. Sewell, of Newport, and other gentlemen being present. "No article of value was found, save a cinerary urn, unbaked, merely sun-dried, and unornamented, but in a perfect state of preservation, containing ashes."

On Wroxall Down a barrow was examined the following year by the same gentlemen. The mound yielded a Celtic urn turned downwards, covering the ashes of a female and child. The urn is deposited in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford—its height is 11¾ inches; its diameter at the rim is 10 inches. Other unbaked urns were discovered at the same time—these fell to pieces on removal.[1]

On the occasion of the visit of the British Archæological Association to the Island, in the year 1855, a party of members visited Wroxall Down, where four large barrows were examined under the superintendence of Mr. Ernest Wilkins, the curator of the museum at Newport. "In one or two of these large portions of charcoal, wood ashes, together with large flints, sea-sand, and some calcined remains, were found, clearly showing the tumuli had been used for the sepulture of a people who burnt their dead, but no kind of urn or any coins were found."[1]

The barrows appear to have been formed at a time prior to the occupation by the Romans, for no article of Roman character was found within them. Referring to these explorations, Hillier remarks, "That the general features in the deposits of this particular era would seem to show that it was not the custom of the aboriginal inhabitants to inter articles of value with their dead."[2] A fuller reference to the tumuli on Wroxall Down may be found in a paper "On the Antiquities of the Isle of Wight," read at the meeting of the Archæological Association, at Newport, by Mr. J. T. Pettigrew.[3]

On Luccombe Down, overlooking the village of Bonchurch, and placed a few feet distant from the boundary line dividing the parish from that of Newchurch, at an elevation of some seven hundred feet, five tumuli are to be seen grouped together, and though much degraded are still plainly discernible. These barrows were examined in the same year, 1855, as those on Wroxall Down, and the report of the examination was to the effect:—"The barrows appear to have been of a very early period, the place of interment being surrounded by large flints and containing unbaked urns, which fell to pieces the moment they were exposed to the sun."

On St. Catherine's Down, at the western end of the range, several burial mounds may be seen, and there are other examples located on the Shanklin Downs.

As a rule these earlier examinations were made in so perfunctory a way, very little systematic search being observed, that it is difficult to speak with any certainty of the results, and the period and history of each individual mound must always remain more or less speculative.

[1] Wilkins, E., *Antiqt. I. W.*, p. 52. [2] Hillier, *Hist. and Antiqt. I. W.*, part 2.
[3] *Jour. Arch. Ass.*, vol. ii, pp. 177–193.

An instance of this cursory mode of examination is related in the memoirs of Sir John Oglander :—

You may see divors buries on ye topp of owre Island hills,—I haue digged for my experience in soome of ye moore awntientest, and haue found manie bones of men formerlye consumed by fyor, accordinge to ye Romane custome; and manie peeces of Romish quyne; for in awntient tymes they did desior to be buryed, *in summitatem montis,* in ye moste eminentist places, and as neare heven as they coold. Wheresoever you see a burie in any eminent place, most commonlye on ye toppe of hilles, you may presume that there hath beene soome buryed; digge, and you shall find theyre bones.[1]

These ancient peoples have left other evidences of their stay in or near the Undercliff, for traces of their language are found associated with the names of places, streams, and water courses, after the lapse of more than two thousand years.

"One of the oldest of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight names, dating back to a very remote period, is the syllabic water word "*dour,*" "*dur,*" or "*ur,*" as found in Appuldurcombe. This word is believed to have been a survival of the ancient Neolithic language, and to have been incorporated into the Celtic language from this earlier source. This syllabic water word has been hardened in sound into "*aar*" or "*ar,*" as represented by the name "Yar" in the Island river of that name, and thus retained by the successive races who have used it, by its sound. The Celts have left a mark of their stay in the word "cwm," so frequently found in the Island, and signifying a hollow between hills. This word became modified later by Saxon usage into "combe," as in Luccombe, a part of the Bonchurch parish, or Nettlecombe, in the parish of Whitwell. The prefix "*dun*" is another Celtic word found in Dunnose, the well-known headland between Bonchurch and Shanklin. This word often denotes a tract of poor, hilly land, consisting of sand."[2]

THE ROMAN ERA

commenced about A.D. 43. The Belgae, otherwise known as the Brythons, whose ancestors had conquered the earlier Celtic inhabitants, were in possession when Vespasian, the general commanding the second Roman legion under Aulus Plautius, reduced the Isle of Wight.

The Roman occupation of the Island lasted four centuries. From the various local discoveries that have been made in different parts of the Undercliff, it would seem more than probable that the Romans had a settlement here. Many traces pointing to prolonged Roman occupation have been found at different times.

One of the known naval stations of those days lay between Port Castor—the modern Puckaster—at the western end of the Undercliff, and Selsey over on the mainland. "The Roman fleets cruised in the Channel or stationed themselves at the Isle of Wight."[3]

At Bonchurch, just below the old church, a small portion of an old Roman Camp could till lately be seen. The late Dr. Martin, referring

[1] Ogl. *Mem.*, pp. 117–8. [2] Shore, *Proc. H. F. C.*, vol. iii, pp. 233–56.
[3] Adams, *I. W.*, part iii, p. 224. *Antiqt.*, by E. Kell.

to the camp in the year 1842, says :—" Some works, apparently belonging to an ancient fortification, also exist near the edge of the cliff below East Dene, though much has been destroyed by the falling of the cliff within these few years. The sea encroaching on the cliff has washed away the interior, and there now remain only the bank and the ditch on the land side, but in a fair state of preservation."[1] At an Island meeting of the British Archæological Association in the year 1855, the members locally visited Bonchurch, and the Rev. James White " pointed out some remains of a Roman encampment at Bonchurch, very similar to others visited by the Congress in 1854, and which, like them, had been half washed away by the sea." A further reference is made by the Rev. E. Kell " to the precarious state of a Roman encampment at Bonchurch, of which now only a small portion remains, while it is an additional evidence of Roman occupation, shows us in what manner Puckaster (at Niton) may have disappeared. Here," he adds, " within the memory of man, portions of the fort have been entombed."[2]

The writer on *Romano-British Hampshire,* referring to places where Roman remains have been found, alludes cursorily to it, " also earthwork, said without evidence to have been Roman—mostly at the Ventnor end of Bonchurch."[3]

In digging the foundations of a house, " Mountfield," in 1842, a Romano-British urn was found eighteen inches under ground in the bank south of the Flagstaff rock. The field was formerly known as " Pit Close." " It is an olla," writes Mr. Kell, " of common form, and contained the remains of incinerated bones. Several urns were found at the same time, but were broken in getting them out, and this was the only one preserved. It is of dark earth and brittle such as the ' blue slipper ' (the gault) in the Undercliff might be, after exposure to fire. The urn is 5½ inches in height, 4¼ inches diameter at the top, 5 inches ditto in the broadest part, 3½ inches at the bottom. It is Roman, a good specimen, and preserved in the Newport Museum."[4]

These discoveries would appear to point out the spot as having belonged to some Roman station or outpost, and the idea is favoured by the commanding position of its heights.

In the grounds of Underrock, close by, several Roman coins were found.[5] In March, 1845, " some urns containing burnt bones and ashes were found by the Rev. James White during excavations for building a cottage, at a distance of some 600 yards from the sea."[6]

At Ventnor, when quarrying for stone in Madeira Vale, various fragments of pottery were discovered. The specimens were pronounced by the Rev. James White to be Roman. In 1845 " a fine bronze armilla or bracelet, on the arm of a female skeleton, was found, seven feet below the ground in the Belgrave Road, and in such a position as to suggest

[1] *The Undercliff*, p. 359. [2] Adams, *I. W.*, part iii, p. 229. *Antiqt.*, by E. Kell.
[3] V. C. H., *Romano-British Hamp.*, vol. i, p. 347.
[4] *Jour. of the Arch. Ass.*, vol. xii, p. 88. [5] Lockhart's *Guide*, p. 47.
[6] *The Arch. Jour.*, vol. i, p. 68.

she had been buried under a fall of earth. The weight of the bracelet was 472 grains, and is now deposited in the Newport Museum." It was pronounced by the Archæological Society to belong to the Romano-British period, *circa* A.D. 300, and is engraved in *Akerman's Archæological Index,* 1847.[1] "When excavating the foundations of Goldwell House, in the Grove Road, three sepulchral urns, together with some coins of Claudius Gothicus, small brass and worn, were found." "A Roman bronze ring and six Roman coins (minimi) were found in an urn in excavating the south end of the Ventnor railway tunnel. The ring is rather thick and about 1½ inches in diameter."[2] In Gil's Cliff, Ventnor, Mr. Westropp says that "Evidence of a Roman period appears in the 'kitchen middens' discovered there, as Samian ware and pottery of a very fine clay and of a dark red colour were found," also, in the quarry there, an ancient coin—one of the Cæsars—was discovered.

On the shore, at St. Lawrence, a few coins of Victorinus, the Constantines, Valens, and Gratian were found, and, at Binnel Bay, in the adjoining Whitwell parish, a coin of Constantine.[3]

At Niton a Roman urn, eight inches high, was found near the Sandrock Hotel a few years ago, and a gold coin of Maximus was discovered in the cliff, whilst several other Roman coins have been met with in the parish.[4]

In the immediate neighbourhood various discoveries of coins have been made from time to time. In the year 1833, at Cliff Farm, when digging on the north side of Shanklin Down, a few feet under ground, in a sort of tumulus, a vase of ancient pottery—a Roman amphora—with two handles was found, containing some six hundred small coins, third brass, and six denarii of silver, of Arcadius and Honorius.[5] On the 25th of September, 1863, a still larger number of coins were discovered during the construction of the eastern section of the Isle of Wight Railway through the village of Wroxall. The deposit was in the bottom of the valley just above the residence of Osmond Johnson, Esq., in a field where the workmen were about to make a tunnel through Wroxall Down to Ventnor. The coins—5,000 in number—were principally third brass of Claudius Gothicus, Constantine, Constans, Valentinian II, Valens, Theodosius, Arcadius, and Gratianus, and were contained in an urn, buried five feet below the ground, and surrounded by a rude stone wall. The general character of the coins, writes Mr. Kell, was similar to those found in the ampulla at Shanklin.[6]

It is supposed that much of the remains of Roman colonisation has been swept away by the various subsidences which so constantly take place. It is very clear that portions of the cliff to the westward of Chale have been giving way under the action of the sea from a very distant date up to the present day, and these slips have carried away with them many relics of the inhabitants of this part of the south side of the Island.

[1] Lockhart's *Guide*, p. 47. [2] *Ibid.*
[3] Odell, *Proc. H. F. C.*, vol. iv, p. 73. [4] E. Wilkins, *Antiqt. I. W.*, p. 59.
[5] Adams, *I. W.*, part iii, p. 226. *Antiqt.*, by E. Kell.
[6] *Jour. Arch. Ass.*, vol. xix, p. 331.

Examples of interments appertaining to the Roman period have been found in the district, and correspond with those of the earlier inhabitants, (*a*) the burial of body entire, and (*b*) the cremation of the body and deposition of the ashes in cinerary urns.

The first recorded notice of the discovery of the remains of the early dead occurs in the year 1727, when ten urns, containing evidences of cineration, were accidentally denuded of their covering at Stenbury, an ancient moated manor house, situated on the western slope of Week Down, close to the confines of the Undercliff district. In levelling the bank to fill in the moat surrounding the house, the discovery was made of "ten earthen pots or urns, full of coals and bits of bones, which, from their composition, size, and shape, lead to the conjecture that this spot might have been a family catacomb, before the custom of interment in churchyards was introduced,"[1] or it may have been the last resting place of the inhabitants of some small settlement in the neighbourhood. Hillier, in a note, referring to these urns, says: "They were doubtless Roman, but they were broken in getting them out."[2]

In 1806 Archdeacon Hill discovered several urns on Rew Down—not far from Stenbury—which he described as "decidedly Roman, but they were all broken in getting them out."

These various finds of coins, pottery, and other remains in many parts of the district afford proof of the extensive occupation of the Isle of Wight by the Romans. The whole line of the south coast from Brading to Freshwater, including Ventnor, Bonchurch, Wroxall, Rew, Niton, and Stenbury, retain varied traces of their presence, leading to the conclusion that the Romans lingered to the last of their British occupation in the Isle of Wight. It has been suggested that the Romans had a permanent settlement in the Undercliff, indeed, the Rev. James White does not hesitate to say "that wise men tell us that the dark hair and brilliant eyes of the natives of this district are derived from a Roman ancestry."[3]

THE SAXON ERA.

With the coming of the Saxons the recorded history of the district begins. The *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* says "That in A.D. 530 Cedric and Cynric conquered the Island of Wight." No doubt, during the time the Roman occupation lasted, a good deal of temporary settling in different parts of the coast by Jutes, Frisians, and the Anglo-Saxon people generally had taken place, but little is known of what happened in these parts of the Island, between the departure of the Romans, *circa* 410, and the coming of the Saxons. There is a blank in the history from the 3rd to the 6th century, but of one thing we may be certain, that the downlands overlooking the English Channel must have been occupied by the more wealthy and civilised Britons, with a large native population and a fair proportion of their Roman masters. At the close of the 4th century such an exposed position must have become dangerous and have speedily

[1] Albin's *Hist. I. W.*, p. 569. [2] *Jour. of the Arch. Ass.*, vol. xix, p. 307.
[3] *Landmarks in English History.*

fallen a prey to the Teutonic tribes then infesting the English Channel. One section of this race which settled in the Island, says Mr. Kell, was the same as that which first occupied Kent, *viz.*, the Jutes. "A careful examination of the Anglo-Saxon cemeteries in the two localities shows that the contents of the graves are precisely similar, and thus identifies the common origin of the occupants of both. The reasons which induced the Jutes to fix upon the Isle of Wight for a first settlement, it is difficult to determine, unless we attribute it to some attraction of superior wealth and fertility, which, like Kent, this Island exhibited. From what source the wealth, which the inhabitants obviously possessed, who were interred in these graves, arose, whether from the lingering affluence produced by the ancient British tin trade, as may be thought by those who consider the Isle of Wight the mart of that lucrative commerce, or from the results of a continued Roman residence (a fact which is now fully established) we do not offer any decided opinion, but there can be no doubt that at the period of the settlement of the Jutes in this island, it was in a state of great prosperity."[1]

Apart from the settlement names, there is no local proof of this race having occupied the Undercliff for so long a period, since no characteristic Jutish remains of any kind have been found, and, with one exception—the rare Saxon coin found between Ventnor and Shanklin, in the possession of the Venerable Archdeacon Hill—no Saxon coins have been found. As was the case with the earlier races, so here, there are two sources to which we can look for information, (*a*) the interments, and (*b*) the place names.

(*a*) The Interments.—The Saxons practised inhumation, as well as cremation. Some of the earlier interments were made in graves cut in the chalk, or other strata, at the base of the Downs. The skeletons were found entire, two and a half to six feet or more below the surface, placed usually from north-east to south-west, facing the sun, with a cairn or mound raised over the remains. The size of the heap of stones showed the extent of respect to the deceased paid by their friends.

A local form of interment was recently brought to light in June, 1904, by the labourers engaged in digging the foundations of a row of cottages in course of erection on the west side of the road leading from Ventnor to Wroxall.

The road, in earlier days, was probably a pack road leading through the defile, giving access, *viâ* "Gil's Cliff" Road, to the eastern end of the Undercliff. The site of the interment was in a field abutting on the road and marked on the estate map as "High Cross Close," a name suggestive in itself. The ground did not appear to have been disturbed since the body was placed there. The remains were found at a depth of six feet from the ground surface. The mound was ovoid in shape, and, from the area of ground covered and the quantity of stones removed, must have been of considerable size. The length of the cairn from east to west was not less than fifty feet, and may have been longer since the mound evidently extended eastwards under the high road.

[1] *Jour. of the Arch. Ass.*, vol. 16, pp. 253—261.

The mound is said to have been dug into when excavations were being made for the shop premises on the east side of the road immediately facing the site on which the row of cottages was then being built. The breadth was about eighteen feet, and the depth three to four feet. The thickness of the ring of stones forming the cairn was some three feet. The measurements were taken from the stones remaining *in situ* in the face of the bank where the excavation had been made. The stones forming the ring were irregular in size and shape, and were such as might be used in building a rough loose stone wall to-day. A large rounded stone, weighing about a hundred weight and a quarter, with others that were unmistakably boulders, had been brought up from the beach, 450 feet below. There were also white flints gathered from the adjacent down, with other stones collected from sources outside the local area, "bread-stones" obtainable only at Binstead, and at Freshwater, with black flints, said by experts to have come from the latter neighbourhood.

The remains would appear to have been placed outside the ring of stones here described, being found at a distance of ten feet from its outer surface on the south-western aspect, not under the centre of the mound. At the time of the interment the body, according to the custom of the day, lay between north-east and south-west. It would therefore seem that this was not the primary interment for which the barrow mound was originally raised, and, if the assumption is correct, the contents of the earlier interment still lie undisturbed under the high road.

The human remains, consisting of some fifty pieces, belonged to an old man, five feet eight or nine inches in height, who had, many years prior to his death, dislocated his left shoulder, a false joint having been formed. The changes indicative of this were quite evident, though some two to three thousand years had passed since the occurrence. The skull was entire when found, but was split open after removal, and the right half only preserved. It presented nothing noticeable in its conformation, although the complete atrophy of the dental processes, except in front, showed that the subject was well advanced in years.

The objects found with the remains were (1) pottery, in fragments, forming part of six or more small vessels, or urns, that had been baked in the fire. The amount of skill shown in shaping the pots varied somewhat. More than one of the pieces might have been shaped on a potter's wheel. It is probable that all the specimens were hand-made. The height and the dimensions could only be roughly estimated. The circumference of one of them was some eighteen inches; a second, of much stouter make and intact when found—being broken to search for valuables—had a circumference at the upper part of about 28 inches. The pottery was rude enough to have belonged to an earlier age than the Romano-British period.

(2) Bones of animals—one fragment of the long bone of some large animal split open so as to expose the medullary canal, two long bones probably those of a sheep.

(3) The teeth of some large animal.

(4) Shells of oyster, limpet, and mussel.

Captain J. Thorp gives, in the *Journal of the British Archæological Association* for 1882, a description of an ancient British barrow he opened, near Nunwell, resembling in many of the details the tumulus above described.

(*b*) PLACE NAMES.—Settlement names, derived from "*tun*," a township, as in Wolverton and Niton, or from "*ham*," a homestead, as found in Sainham, in Godshill parish, or Billingham, near Chale. There are other places, isolated farms, homesteads, and hamlets, with significant names, having an origin equally early, but which never grew into villages. These are, perhaps, better examples of what most of the original Saxon settlements were like, than the larger hamlets or villages which many of them subsequently became. Week Farm, close to Whitwell, and anciently called "Wicke," or "Wic," is an early settlement name derived from "*wic*," a dwelling place, or habitation.

(*c*) WATER NAMES.—The settlement places by the springs which gave their names afterwards to manors are marked by place names terminating in, or corresponding with, the Saxon word "well," as in Whitwell; "*ache*" or "*asche*," a Saxon word meaning "the source," as found in Ash Farm in the same parish.

(*d*) NAMES OF FORTIFIED PLACES, from the word "*burh*," or "bury," signifying a fortified site, as in Stenbury, in the parish of Godshill, or Bury, in Niton parish. This latter class of Saxon settlements has a special interest, for names terminating in "bury" or "don" indicate that they were on, or quite close to, some of the old Celtic fortresses, and although the earthworks may have been obliterated, yet these distinctive place names remain, denoting that a "bury," or fortification, existed at such a place. Here remains of a Romano-British type are often found, as instanced in the case of the urns, discovered at Stenbury, already referred to.

(*e*) BOUNDARY NAMES, marked by the words "dean" or "den," as in Dean Farm, in Whitwell parish. The woods referred to in early days no doubt extended up to this point.

THE DANISH ERA.

The Danish or Scandinavian invasions and subsequent settlements did not affect the south side of the Island—though the Danes made several descents on the shore and were in full possession of the Island A.D. 998—to any known extent, beyond giving its capital town, Ventnor, part of the name by which it is still known. Words ending in "ore" or "or" a strand, are names having a Danish ancestry.

Chapter III.

OF BONCHURCH.

"Come, look on Bonchurch, from the sacred steep
Whose springs salubrious gush with life and light,
Under a down of finely moulded form,
Valley and village safely bide the storm;
So well is each tall tree, each lowly roof,
Secured by rocky barriers tempest-proof!" *The Fair Island.*[1]

Of this part of the Undercliff district in early days very little is known. It consisted probably of wild forest land. That the pre-historic races did visit the locality is known, for on the site of the Old Church and the ground adjacent unmistakable evidence of the occupation of the area by the flint folk of the "Later Stone Age" is afforded. The evidence of their stay has already been discussed in the second chapter. A later race, covering the "Bronze Age," also settled in the district. On the summit of the downs, overlooking the village, and within the confines of the parish, a group of four—possibly of five—pre-historic round tumuli are to be seen. These mounds, as being the burial places of the chiefs and distinguished men of the Goidels or Gaels, are of much interest to later day residents. These tumuli have also been discussed at length elsewhere. Bonchurch was a favoured spot in Roman times. The evidences, favouring the idea of the Romans having had a settlement—possibly an encampment—here, have already been adduced.

The recorded history of Bonchurch dates from the compilation of the "Domboc," or Domesday Book, which supplies here, as elsewhere, the starting point of local history. From it the knowledge as to the ownership, the area, and the value of the manors in those days is derived. When William the Conqueror had the Record compiled, the modern parish of Bonchurch was described therein as two separate manors, and of these Luccombe constituted the eastern half and was then the more valuable.

OF THE "MANOR OF LUCCOMBE."

The name is one of considerable antiquity, the suffix "*cwm,*" transformed by later Saxon usage into "combe," being of Celtic origin, and signifying a valley between two hills.

There have been several ways of spelling the name, viz., Lovecombe, Luvecumbe, Loocombe, Lowcombe, Lukkum, etc. Though described as a separate manor in the Domesday Book, and distinctly referred to as Luvecumb in the tithe composition deed—"*Compositio per Abbm. de*

[1] Edmund Peel, canto v, f. 43.

Bonchurch, 1808.

Lyra pro Decimis Terrarum, etc., de Quarr,"[1] these appear to be the only occasions in which it is distinctly mentioned, apart from Bonchurch and Shanklin.

In the time of king Edward the Confessor the manor formed a part of the Crown lands and *" Sawin held it of king Edward as an alod."*

After the battle of Hastings, the manor passed, with the other Crown lands and the lordship of the Island, by gift of William the Conqueror to his greatest friend, William Fitz Osbern. At his death, *circa* 1070, the estate passed to his son Roger, earl of Hereford, but, in consequence of his treason, shortly afterwards, in 1075, reverted to the Crown.

In the Domesday Record the manor is entered as follows :—

" Lovecumbe tenet Rex. Sawinus tenuit in alodium de rege Edwardo. Tunc geldavit pro una hida. Modo pro ij partibus unius virgata. Terra est j carucata, et ibi est in dominio, cum vj bordariis et ij servi. Tempore Regis Edwardi valebat iiij libras, et post, et modo, iij libras. Tamen reddit de firma, iiij libras."[2]

Translation.—The King holds Lovecumb. Sawin held it, allodially, of King Edward. It was then assessed for one hide, but now for two-thirds of a virgate. There is land for 1 plough, which is in demesne with 6 bordarii and 2 serfs. In the time of King Edward it was worth 4 pounds, now 3 pounds, and yet it is farmed for 4 pounds.

As regards the first tenancy, Sawin was in all probability a Saxon thegn, and held the land as a free manor, or, as here expressed, " allodially," *i.e.*, free from every suit, or imposition, save and except the land tax called hidage—having no superior—rendering his services directly to the king.

It then paid geld for 1 hide. The " hide," of Domesday, " was usually an indefinite quantity of land which sufficed to maintain one family," and corresponded to the " plough-land " or " carucate " of Domesday, *i.e.*, it was as much land as could be ploughed with a full team of eight oxen. A " hide of land " was the unit of assessment on which the " danegeld " was paid.

" *But now for 2-thirds of a virgate.*" Apparently showing that, for some cause or other, the assessed value of the holding had decreased.

" *There is land for 1 plough which is in demesne.*" The acreage of land here mentioned was an uncertain quantity, varying in different districts, but it was generally understood to be as much as a plough team could by course of husbandry, plough in a year. " The demesne," or home farm, was the seat of the thane with the lands immediately belonging to it, as distinct from such lands as were held of him by service. Every manor had its lord resident, or, he was represented by a steward or reeve.

" *With 6 bordars and 2 serfs.*" The working staff of a farm in those early days depended on its size. In the present instance we find none of the better class—the villeins—on the estate holding land from the lord, proportionate in extent to the number of oxen contributed by them to the manorial plough team.

[1] W., *App.* No. 70.

[2] Warner's *Domesday Hamp.*, p. 36.

"*In the time of King Edward it was worth 4 pounds; now 3 pounds; and yet it is farmed for 4 pounds.*" This entry furnishes an instance of the fact that the Crown "farmed out" its lands, in this case apparently at a value beyond what the manor was worth.

The system on which this was done is not clear, since it is not yet possible to say if the king's rights in a given district were "farmed out" as a whole, or, whether a number of small manors, each representing a certain monetary value, were grouped together.

"In Hampshire and the three other counties constituting the old Kingdom of Wessex, the Domesday Record shows us," says Mr. T. W. Shore, "an archaic system in the act of passing away. This was the grouping of certain manors to form a unit from which the King received a fixed rent in kind, such a rent was known as a 'firma unius diei' from the Anglo-Saxon word 'feorm.'"

It would have been locally interesting to know what other manors were grouped with Luccombe as the "sources" to form a unit from which the King would receive a certain fixed rent. In the early part of the Confessor's reign "the ferm" had a known value of £76. 16*s.* 8*d.*, at a later period the value on the mainland was raised to £104. 12*s.* 2*d.*

From other entries in the Record it is evident that the sources from which a "ferm" rent was drawn were widely spread, for manors on the mainland are found to contribute. For instance, at "Oakley (near the New Forest) the King had, and has, one hide which belongs to (the sources of) the 'farm' of the Isle of Wight."[1] In the Hundred of Redbridge the following notice appears as to "Stanswood in Fawley":—"The King himself holds . . . . This manor is included in the (sources of) the King's ferm which he has from the Isle of Wight."[2] There is a reference in the Fordingbridge Hundred to the manor of Breamore, "one hide in the Isle of With (Wight) belongs to this manor. From it there used to come nine pounds towards the King's ferm. And from (that part which is in) the Isle (of Wight) nine pounds (is received) of ferm."[3] Several of the crown manors in the neighbourhood of Bonchurch are referred to. Of Messley in Newchurch, the record states: "King Edward held it in demesne, and it belonged to his 'farm' and did not pay geld." "The King holds Staneberie (Stenbury) and Wipingham (a double manor), and Wenechetone (Winston)—from these two manors comes a 'farm' of 18 pounds, of 20 (pence) to the ounce. One virgate belonging to this manor is in Soflet. The King has it now (included) in his ferm."[4] "The King holds Bouecombe (in Carisbrooke) in demesne. It belonged to King Edward's 'farm.'"[5]

The several extracts here given favour the supposition that small manors were grouped together till a "farm" of a given value was arrived at.

A further examination of the Record shows that Sawin, the tenant of the Luccombe manor—presumably the same person,—before the Con-

[1] V. C. H., *Domesday Survey*, vol. i, p. 510.
[2] *Ibid.*, vol. i, p. 454.
[3] *Ibid.*, vol. i, p. 455.
[4] *Ibid.*, vol. i, p. 459.
[5] *Ibid.*, vol. i, p. 517.

quest, held other estates in different parts of the county. At "Hurstborne Priors," Sawin *held* 2 hides minus half a virgate (from the Bishop of Winchester) "and could not betake himself anywhere." This latter phrase means—not at liberty to sell the land—or, to commend himself to other lords. At Alverstoke—another of the Bishop's estates—it is stated "Of the land of this manor one knight holds half a hide—Sawin *held* it (before the Conquest), but could not betake himself anywhere." In Fordingbridge Hundred, "Sawin holds half a hide of the King in Rocheborne. He himself *held* it of King Edward as an alod (*i.e.*, as a freehold). The sheriff's officers say that this half hide belongs to the King's farm." "Sawin and Elmar *held* Stanes (Stone in Fawley) and had each of them a hall" (the hall was necessary to the existence of a manor and usually the residence of the owner of the estate). Now follow a series of small holdings which were absorbed in the "New Forest" which the Conqueror was making: "Sawin (*held*) 1 hide in Hardelie. It is now in the Forest." "Sawin *held* of the King 1 hide and 1 virgate in Bocolt. It is now in the forest." "Sawin had 1 virgate in the Bovre Hundred. It is now in the Forest."

From what occurs in the context, it is evident that Sawin was an Englishman, and, like all the native landowners, had his lands confiscated, or was dispossessed of them in favour of some one or other of the Norman followers of King William. It is estimated by Ballard that "not more than one per cent. of the country was owned (*i.e.*, held of the King), in 1086, by the same men that had owned it in 1066, or, by the sons or widows of the previous owners."[1]

Of the eight estates already enumerated as being in Sawin's possession before the Conquest, two only remained to him when the Domesday survey was completed. As regards one of them it will be seen that he was the only one of the original holders able to retain his property. The story relating to his retention of it is interesting, and is given by Mr. Round as a point worth noting. "A thegn (*Sawin*) who still held, as he had done before the Conquest, half a hide in Rockbourn, seems to have found King Edward's seal, a good title to his land. The sheriff's officers claimed it as belonging to the King's ferm—that is, as among the sources from which that ferm is raised—'but the Hundred and the Shire say that King Edward gave it him and that he has his (writ and) seal for it.' This, therefore, was clearly deemed to confer a valid title."[2]

THE TITHES OF THE MANOR.

The great tithes of the manor were bestowed by William Fitz Osbern, on becoming the first lord of the Island, with the tithes of his demesne lands at Haseley, Arreton, Shalcombe, etc., in the Isle of Wight, on the Abbey of Lyra, a monastery he had founded in Normandy. The mother abbey at first collected the dues by a procurator, and later, the monks coming over from the Continent at intervals on visits of inspection to the Island properties are traditionally said to have landed at the little

[1] Ballard, *The Domesday Inquest*, p. 101. [2] V. C. H., *Domesday Survey*, vol. i, p. 436.

cove below the old church, whence its name of "Monks' Bay" is in all probability derived. The journey, no doubt, being found tedious and irksome, an arrangement was entered into by which the priory of Carisbrooke undertook to receive and transmit these dues. Later, in the time of King Stephen, *circa* 1150, Healdarius, abbot of Lyra, drew up an agreement with the abbot of Quarr, a monastery situated on the northern side of the island, by which the former conceded to the latter, for a yearly pension of forty shillings, the tithes of the manors of Haseley, Arreton, Shalcombe, and Luccombe.[1] The agreement was renewed in the year 1239, an additional sum of ten shillings being paid towards the support of the Church at Carisbrooke.

In a charter entitled "Carta Confirmationis, Hen. II Regis," a recital of the lands belonging to Quarr Abbey is entered, and Luccombe is referred to in the deed as the gift of Hugo de Magnaville—"Ex dono Hugonis de Magnavilla terram de Lowecumbe."[2] A later deed, entitled "Carta Fundationis et Confirmat Ricardi Comitis Exoniæ,"[3] repeats the statement. In a subsequent agreement between Thomas de Newnham and his wife Sabina and the abbot of Quarr, reference is made "ad grangiam suam Luvecumbe."[4] Lastly, the Confirmation charter of lady Isabella de Fortibus contains a reference to the estate at Luccombe:—"Terram et tenementum de Scece que quondam pertinebant ad manerium de Lovecumbe." No information is forthcoming explanatory as to how, or when, the manor came into the possession of the De Magnaville family.

On a Charter Roll the following is entered:—

1284. May 5. Carnarvon. "Grant to the abbot and convent of Quarr of free warren in all their demesne lands in Newenham, Coumbeleye, Arreton, Haseleye, Louecumb, La Yerde, Bykebergh, Rouwebergh, Stapelhurst, Claybrok, Shete, Cumpton, Shaldecumb, and Hamstead, in the Isle of Wight."[5]

In the "Taxatio Ecclesiasticæ" of Pope Nicholas IV, in 1291, a return is made: "Abbas de Quariera—apud Lovecumbe, £8. os. od.," and in the later "Valor Beneficiorum," of Cardinal Beaufort, *circa* 1410, the Luccombe estate belonging to Quarr Abbey is valued at 12 marks.[6] The estates of the abbey comprised some of the finest land in the Isle of Wight, and at the time of the dissolution of monastic establishments, in 1536, the grange of Luccombe still belonged to that community.

THE STORY OF THE TYTHES OF BONCHURCH.

A late incumbent, Mr. Hewson, used to relate the achievements of one of his predecessors, in trying to restore to his church the great tythes of Luccombe. The story is given *in extenso* by Davenport Adams,[7] as follows:—

William the Conqueror—for he went a long way back in his ecclesiastical lament—bestowed the tythes of Bonchurch on the monks of Lyra, in Normandy;

[1] W., *App.*, No. 70.
[2] *Ibid.*, No. 53.
[3] *Ibid.*, No. 51.
[4] *Ibid.*, No. 68.
[5] *Cal. Ch. R.*, p. 272, 1257—1300.
[6] W., *Hist. I. W.*, p. 176.
[7] Adams, *I. of W.*, p. 198.

and those holy men sent over at intervals a couple of brethren to perform the offices of religion to their little cure. . . . . The monks converted the small bay where they landed—" Monks Bay " into a fishing ground, and exacted a percentage of all fish caught by the natives. Evil times came on and the monks grew careless, the monastery became merely the Patron, and there was a resident incumbent supported on the tythes. But evil times seem to have come on again . . . . and eventually nothing was left of the old connection between Lyra and Bonchurch, but the grant of the great tythes of the parish made by William to the Abbey. There it was, very old and moth-eaten; but declared by competent witnesses, in 1788, to be legible still; with all the names accurately spelt and the seal unbroken. Meanwhile, Luccombe had begun to grow large crops of corn, and to have flocks of sheep and oxen on its pastures. The incumbent talked of law, and the farmer dared him to support any claim for tythes after such a lapse of time. . . . . The discussion lasted some years, and to settle it, the Incumbent sent over an agent properly empowered, to examine the original document and see whether the words were " of the whole parish thereunto attached," or whether it was only " such part of the said parish as is not held by Farmer Smith, calling itself the Luccombe Farm." It was now 1793. The French Revolution had shaken the kingdom—feudal castles had been demolished . . . . but peaceably, in a little valley of the old Duchy of Normandy, still rose the solid walls of the Monastery of Lyra. The agent, with all his credentials with him, went into the tranquil recess. He knocked at the gate. He expected the smiling countenance and bald head of a brother of the Order. " Have you still the Conveyance of the great tythes of Bonchurch? " was almost on his lips, when the gate was flung open with a hideous sound, and a dreadful *sans culotte* gnashed upon him with his teeth, seized him by the collar, proclaimed him a foe of *la grande nation*! There was a row of lamp posts all round the courtyard, and from each of these was suspended a poor old monk, drest up in his official robes. In the middle of the quadrangle was a fire, and drunken and infuriated wretches heaped into it barrowsfull of paper, etc., etc. The agent looked on in despair. There was fortunately no lamp post unoccupied. He muttered some impromptu story of having lost his way, and at last he managed to get away. In that great fire, in the courtyard of Lyra, perished the hopes of the Incumbent of Bonchurch; and Farmer. Smith transmitted to his successors one of the prettiest little farms of England, tythe free.

The old adage—one story stands good till another is told—is true in this instance, for recent research proves that the story thus related is purely mythical. Mr. Hewson, whose name is mentioned, was incumbent of the parish from 1766 to 1803, covering the period in which the exciting adventure is said to have occurred. The question of " tithe or no tithe " had been legally raised by Mr. Hewson's predecessor, who held the living from 1719 to 1766. The initial proceedings are entered, in an Exchequer Bill, as follows:—

" that he (William Downes) was instituted in 1719."

" that he was entitled to all Tyths both great and small arising and growing within the sd. Parish."

" that Marian Rolfe had been possessed of Luccombe for some years past and has carried away wheat, etc., without setting forth any Tyths or paying in any wise for the same."

" that Marian Rolfe refuses to account . . . insisting and pretending that the said farm is tythe free by reason of some ancient prescription, unity of possession in some religious house . . . . whereas the same is only a mere pretence." . . . .

" requests that Marian Rolfe be required to state quantity of wool, milke, poultry, geese . . . and what the same in value amounts unto . . ."[1]

[1] *Exch. Bill*, Geo. I, South'ton, No. 82.

On the 23rd of October, 1722, the following is entered :—

"It is this day ordered by the Court that publication doe pass of all the Depositions of Witnesses taken in this Cause and the said Cause to be heard in next Hillary Terme."[1]

The Depositions[2] taken under Commission, were as follows :—
Membrane 2, contains the Interrogatories 4 in number :—

(*a*) Do you know who is or was farmer or occupier of the farme called Luccombe, etc., from the 20 Feb. 1719.

(*b*) How many acres of wheat, of barley, of oats, of peas, had the said farmer in that year, and what was the tyth thereof, and what other tyths arose on the sd. farme in that year with their particulars and values.

Membrane 3 contains the depositions of the witnesses taken at the house of Mr. Andrew Goodman, called by the name of the Dolphin Inn, Winchester, on the 3rd day of October, 1722 :—

(*a*) William Griffin, of Arreton, clerke, aged 60 years says, he knows Wm. Downes, that he inducted him as rector of Bonchurch, etc.

(*b*) Solomon Prince, of Hursley, yeoman, aged 60 was present.

(*c*) Richard Warder says—"Marian Rolfe was occupier from Feb. 20th, 1719, to Mich : 1721, and in 1720, was cutt and made on the sd. farme 16 acres of hay . . . . about 10 tons worth about 20*s*. a ton."

Membrane 4 contains other interrogatories :—

(*a*) Do you know the parties (*b*) and the farm, or lands known by the name of Lovecombe or Luccombe and Grange lying in the parish of Bonchurch, alias, St. Boniface. (*c*) was, or was not, the sd. farm and lands . . . . parte or parcell of the possessions heretofore belonging to the dissolved abbey of Quarre . . . . and what hath been the reputation of the sd. farme concerning the payment of Tythes.

Membrane 5 contains the answers :—

(1) John Caws, of Kingston, aged 66 years, deposeth that he knoweth the parties—and the farme, etc.—that the said parish hath been formerly and now is called and known as well by the name of St. Boniface, as Bonchurch, the sd. farme hath the reputation, ever since this deponent can remember, to be Tythe free, and the better knows the same to be true since he lived with his father William Caws, who entered on the same farme about 49 years since and rented the same for 8 years after. He never heard that any tythe was paid or demanded by the then Minister of Bonchurch or any other person whatsoever.

(2) James Urry, of Sandham ffort, Gent, aged about 55 years answers the several interrogatories to the same effect—that the lands were tythe free, this deponent the better knows to be true for that he lived up and down with his uncle James Chick in the neighbourhood, who occupyed the same being upwards of 40 years since and never knew or heard that any Tythes were ever paid for the said farme. The deponent further saith—that while his Uncle Chick enjoyed the said farme he did see his said Uncle deliver a paper into the hands of Mr. Bold then rector who on reading the same, he did then hear the said Mr. Bold declare that as he had begun in Love he would end in Love and would goe no further, by which this deponent understood that there had been a law suite depending between the said rector and his uncle about the Tythes of the said farm . . . .

[1] *Exch. Orders*, 1722, Mich., No. 85.

[2] *Exch. Depositions*, 9 Geo. I, Mich., 3.

(3) Richard Warder, of Bembridge, yeoman, aged 47 years, gave similar information, adding :—

"that the yearly value of the farm is about £105 a year," also "hath heard that the farme and lands did belong to the dissolved abbey of Quarre and always reputed tythe free—had lived with his mother in law the defendant and managed the farm for her the last 12 years."

On the 20th of February, 1722–3, the following appears :—

Whereas Wm. Downes did in Hilary Term in the 7th year of his now Majesty's reign exhibit his English Bill of Complaint against Marian Rolfe—Widow, deft. . . . . that deft. had answered and pltff. had replied, etc. the sd. Cause came to be heard this present day before . . . . three of the Barons of this Court when upon opening of the pltffs. bill by Mr. Bunbury, of Council and on hearing Sir Con Phipps, Knt., and Mr. Guidott on the same side, no councill attending for the sd. deft., and on reading sd. deft.'s answer. It is thereupon this day decreed that the sd. deft. shall account with the pltff. for the tyths . . . . for the years and times named in the Bill—a commission shall issue, if needful, and the Depy. Remembrancer is to make his Report with all convenient speed . . . . the deft. first paying £5 costs to the pltff. . . . .[1]

On May 16th, 1723, there is entered :—

Upon ye motion of Sir Con Phipps, Knt., praying that his Cause may be heard on Monday next—which is by ye Court ordered accordingly.[2]

At the hearing in the Exchequer Chamber it was shown that—

the deft. had not paid £5 costs, and praying that the order of 20th February may be made absolute, no councill appearing for the sd. deft. It is this day ordered that the sd. order of 20th February be made absolute, that the sd. deft. do account with pltff. pursuant to the direction of the sd. Order. . . . .

On November the 8th, 1723, is the following order :—

"Upon the motion of Mr. Bunbury of Councill . . . . It was alleged That upon the hearing of this Cause . . . . that in pursuance thereof, the pltff. had taken out three several sumonses with which the deft.'s agents had been duly served, but refused to attend thereupon. . . . . It is this day ordered by the Court that unless the sd. deft. or her agents doe attend the sd. Depy. Rembrancer within a week—the sd. Deputy do proceed upon the sd. Account and make his Report thereon to the Court."[3]

On December 5th—Inter. Will. Downes, querent, and Marian Rolfe, deft. :—

. . . . the Cause came on to be heard—when on reading the sd. Orders on hearing, and of the Report of John Harding Depy. Remembrancer dated 26 Nov. 1723 who thereby certified that he had considered the matters referred to him and found that deft. by her answer admitted that she held Levecombe ffarme at the yearly value of £120 and that she had on the estate during the time in the pltff.'s bill mentioned, 15 acres of hay, at 1*s.* 6*d.* p. acre, the tyth thereof amounted to £1. 2*s.* 6*d.* —30 acres of wheat, at 4*s.* p. acre, tyth £7. 9*s.* 0*d.*—19 acres of barley, at 2*s.* 6*d.* p. acre, tyth £1. 18*s.* 0*d.*—11 acres of oats and peas, at 2*s.* per acre, tyth £1. 2*s.* 0*d.* : for keeping of 240 sheep, at 2*d.* . . . . and amounted in the whole to the sum of £17. 1*s.* 0*d.* Mr. Bunbury of Councill prayed that the sd. Report may be confirmed, no exceptions . . . . being put in. It is this day decreed by the Court . . . . and that the sd. deft. doe forthwith pay to the pltff. the sum of £17. 1*s.* 0*d.*[4]

[1] *Exch. Decree*, 1722–3. Hilary, No. 278.
[2] *Exch. Decree*, 1723, Easter, No. 68.
[3] *Exch. Order*, 1723, Michl., No. 56.
[4] *Exch. Decree*, 1723, Michl., No. 66.

On February 11th, 1723–4, it is shown[1] that notwithstanding the Order and Decree made on December 5th last as to payment—

"the deft. was, on 27th day of January last, personally served with the sd. Decree under the seals of this Court, and the sd. sum duly demanded of her by the pltff., which she refused to pay . . . . pltff.'s councill prayed that an Attachment may be forthwith awarded for her contempt . . . . which the Court held reasonable and doth order the same accordingly."

At this stage Thomas Moorman, who had succeeded the defendant, Marian Rolfe, in the tenancy of Luccombe Farm, was cited in the Cause, as shown by the following document[2] :—

Humbly complaining that Thomas Moorman has been seized of the farme called Lowcombe since 1721 and hath had great quantities of wheat, barley, ... growing thereon . . . . and hath depastured a great number of sheep . . . . whereof your complainant (William Downes) ought to have had the Tythe of Wool, Milk and Calves . . . . Thomas Moorman pretending . . . . whereas the same is a mere pretence. Now, forasmuch as your orator (W. Downes) desireth only the single value of the sd. tyths, hereby expressly waiving all penalties . . . . and forasmuch as your orator has no way of discovering the particular tythe but by the aid of the Court of Equity. Therefore to that end may Thomas Moorman be requested to state quantities of grain, poultry, milk . . . .

In reply the defence to the action is set forth at length :—

The deft. acknowledges that he knows the complnt., has occupied and now holds Luccombe farm at the rent of £135, and does not believe that complnt. is entitled to any of the Tythes, for that he believes that the abbott of Quarr was—long before the dissolution of the same abbey—seized in his demesne as of fee and in the Mannor or ffarme of Levecombe in Right of the sd. abbey, and as belonging to, and as parcell of the possessions thereof . . . . and that the sd. Abbott and his Predecessors were seized of all manner of tenths and Tythes of Corne . . . . and that upon the sd. dissolution, the sd. ffarme tythes . . . . by surrender of the said late abbott with the consent of the said convent, or by other good or lawful conveyance . . . . did become vested in our late Sovereign Henry VIII, his heirs . . . . and that by virtue thereof Henry VIII did become lawfully seised in fee of the said mannor and farme, and portion of Tythes in gross . . . . and did quietly hold and enjoy all and singular, etc., that he died and the premises became vested in Edward VI, and that being so seized, by his letters patent under the Great Seal, dated at Westminster, 18 May in 7th year of his Reign, for £1787. 7*s*. 9*d*. by Thomas Reeve and George Cotton paid Did give and grant to them . . . . the said manor or farme of Luccomb, with Portion of Tythes . . . . and all arable lands, late in the occupation of John Cottesfolde lying and being in Lovecombe. And said deft. is advised that said Reeve and Cotton did on May 20th, 7 Edw. VI, grant, bargain, and sell all the same premises unto William Colnet, Gent., who died seized, and estate became vested in Barnabas Colnet . . . . and by deed, bearing date 20 Sept., 44 Elizabeth, for valuable consideration he conveyed unto Michael Knight, Gent., and his heirs for ever, etc. At his death, premises, etc., became vested in Thomas Knight, eldest son and heir, who for valuable consideration conveyed to Thomas Knight, his son. And at his death it became vested in Richard Knight, son and heir, and was held by him till he on 14 June, 1721, demised the same to the deft. to hold from Mich : for 21 years. And this deponent saith that when he took the said estate to farm it was tythe free . . . . And believes that sd. ffarme is now vested in Rich. Knight's children, Anne and Sarah Knight, and submits that they should be made parties to this suit. . . . . (The defendant then gives a detailed account of the different crops cut during specified periods with the amount of the Tythe, the number of animals and poultry kept, and so many young pigs at 2*s*. each, geese at 1*s*. each, etc.)

[1] *Exch. Order*, 1723–4, Hilary, No. 94. [2] *Exch. Bill*, Geo. I, Suth't., No. 109.

The Bill seems to have been sworn to and signed on April 17th. On the 20th of October further depositions of witnesses, taken under Commission, are reported[1] :—

Membrane 2 contains the several interrogatories, "Do you know the parties; did you see the writings; do you know of any suit." . . .

Membrane 3 contains the depositions taken at the house of Elijah Sheath, known as the Dolphin, situate in Newport, I.W., on Tuesday, October 20th, 1724, before Isaac Legay, John Cosens, Thomas Finber, and others. The witnesses were :—

(1) William Griffin, clerk, vicar of Arreton, aged 62 years.

(2) Richard Warder recapitulates former evidence given by him, adding that Richard Knight, the landlord, had notice of the suit, and after his death the daughters had notice of and were acquainted with the same, and this deponent has often heard them say that the complnt. should never recover the Tiths of the sd. farme but by law, and that the sd. Marian Rolfe should come to no damage on account of the said suite.

(3) William Dyer, of Bonchurch, aged 70 years.

(4) Marian Rolfe, late of Bonchurch, saith (*inter alia*) that whilst the suit was depending, she was directed that if any papers or writings relating to it should be brought or left, she should deliver the same to one Mr. Crouch, an attorney, who acted as agent for Anne and Sarah Knight, and this was done.

Membrane 4 contains the Interrogatories to be administered to the witnesses produced on behalf of Thomas Moorman, six in number, similar in nature to the foregoing. The witnesses examined were :—

(1) William Griffin, previously sworn (*inter alia*) says that the Rectory or Parish was formerly known by the name of St. Boniface, for that there is a well in the said Parish called St. Boniface Well, etc., this deponent further saith that he did know the late Rev. Wm. Torrie, the immediate preceding Incumbent, that he also never knew any Tythes paid for the said farme or lands called Luccombe.

(3) Thomas Haydon, of Godsell, carpenter, aged 67 years, says he has known the farm for 57 years, and though he was often up and down at all seasons of the year, never heard that any tithes were ever demanded or paid, that he never heard there was any satisfaction given or made in lieu thereof to any Rector in respect of Tythable matters arising from the sd. farme. And this deponent further saith that he hath been often in company with ancient persons living in or near the said parish and hath heard them say the same. He well remembers the Rev. — Bowls, an incumbent, about 56 or 7 years since, was carried to be buried, and he never heard he received any tithes.

(4) William Dyer, of Bonchurch, gave evidence to the same effect, having known the farme upwards of three score years. The deponent further saith that his father, John Dyer, who dyed 30 years since, and was at the time of his death 78 years of age, often declared in his life time that no tythes were ever paid.

At this stage a Cross action[2] is brought by Thomas Moorman and Anne and Sarah Knight as plaintiffs against William Downes and Marian Rolfe :—

Humbly complaining Thos. Moorman, yeoman, and Anne and Sarah Knight, spinsters, (and the facts set forth are *pari passu* the same as already given in

[1] *Exch. Depositions*, 11 Geo. I, Mich., No. 20.

[2] *Exch. Bill and Answers*, Geo. I, South'ton, No. 136.

the Exch. Bill No. 109). The Bill proceeds—Your orators little expected that any claim for tythe would be set up, or that they would be molested in the quiet possession, on account of non payment. But the rector being so minded hath entered into a combination with one Marian Rolfe. They confederating together have made demand for the said tythes to give colour to such unjust proceedings, that no grants were ever made, and the Rector untruly pretends that exemption reaches no further than to the payment of Tythes in kind, and that there has always been some modus composition or sum of money paid to his predecessors in lieu thereof, but your orator charges expressly the opposite to be true. To give colour to such pretence the rector gives out that he has obtained a decree of this Court for the payment of tithes claimed by him, and, if so, the same was not fairly and regularly gott. That Marian Rolfe made no defence at the hearing of the cause, but if such decree was obtained, it was by collusion. And there was some private and clandestine contract and agreement. Or, if fairly obtained, yet your orators, being no parties to it, should be held harmless. . . . . May it please your honble. Court to grant a process of subpœna against the sd. William Downes and M. Rolfe commanding them to appear, etc.

The answer of Marian Rolfe follows, and recapitulates former statements of defence, denying, however, that the decree against her was obtained by fraud, collusion, or unjust combination, and praying to be dismissed.

The answer of William Downes is given in detail, and is a denial of statements set forth by Thomas Moorman—

He "thinks it an extraordinary method in the complts., by a side wind, to pretend as by the now Bill to hinder this defnt. from proceeding in the Cause, and this defnt. doth insist on the sd. decree and hopes he shall be permitted to proceed."

Several Exchequer Orders follow, *viz.* :—

17th Novr., 1724, Mich., No. 126, Downes *v.* Moorman;
21st ,, ,, ,, ,, 169, Moorman *v.* Downes and Rolfe;
21st ,, ,, ,, ,, 360, the same;
24th ,, ,, ,, ,, 310, Downes *v.* Moorman, etc.;
26th Jan., 1724–5, Hilary, No. 42, the same;

The final stage was reached on the second Thursday in February, 1724-5, when both Causes were heard and a Decree issued. The facts relating thereto are fully recited in this Decree, on four pages closely written. It proceeds :—

And the sd. cause standing in the paper came on to be heard this day—and reading the depositions of the witnesses—a copy of the statutes which relate to Government, of Bodleian Library, in Oxford—a copy of an agreement, dated 1289, between the Monks of Lyra and Quarre—two several leases, one dated 29 Sept., 4 Hen. VII, the other 6 Aug. 20 Hen. VIII—three copies of the King's Ministers' Accounts, one of 28 Hen. VIII, another 2 Edw. VI and 3 and 5 Edw. VI, copy of a grant of Edw. VI to Reeve and Cotton, dated 18 May—a copy of Ministers' Accounts from Mich. 1 to Mich. 2, Phil. and Mary—a deed dated 26 Oct., 36 Elizabeth—a grant, 27 June, 37 Elizabeth—a licence, dated 1 April, 44 Elizabeth—do. 1 Dec., 8 James I—a deed of settlement, dated 1 Jan., 8 James I.

And proceeds :—

And upon full debate of this matter and hearing what could be alleged by councill on either side the Court declared that the pltffs. Anne and Sarah Knight are entitled to the Tyths in question in these cases as of a portion of Tythes in Gross and that ye said Moorman being lessee under the sd. Ann and Sarah

Luccomb Chine, 1820.

Knight. Therefore it was ordered and decreed that ye Bill brought by the sd. Downes against the sd. Moorman should stand absolutely dismissed out of this Court with costs. . . . . And as to the other cause wherein the sd. Ann and Sarah Knight and the sd. Moorman are pltffs. the Court declared that it appearing that the sd. plts. Ann and Sarah Knight were so entitled to the Tythe in question as of a portion of Tythe in gross, they the sd. pltffs. and the sd. Moorman, their undertenant, ought to hold and enjoy the sd. manor or farme freed and discharged from the payment of any taxes (tythes) or anything in lieu thereof to the Rector of the sd. Rectory in respect of the sd. premises. Therefore it was ordered and decreed that such right shall be established. . . . . And it is further ordered and decreed by the Court that the sd. deft. doe pay the sd. pltffs. their costs in the sd. Cross Cause to be taxed by the Depy. Remembrancer of this Court.[1]

Thus the protracted and alternating suit was brought to a conclusion seventy years before the date assigned to the mythical story given by Davenport Adams, and quoted at the commencement of the account. It is unfortunate that the law costs of and incidental to the proceedings are not ascertainable.

For some centuries there is no reference made to Luccombe. Hassell, in 1790, writes :—" The chine of Luccombe, or " Bowlhoop," as the country people call it, was the next place we visited. Sweeping round the brow of the downs we entered the valley near Luccombe Farm and made our way to the chine. The vale is surrounded by the downs of Shanklin and Bonchurch, which are well wooded, and when the clouds are low and roll on their surface, produce a charming effect. The chine of Luccombe, or Bowlhoop, is by no means so deep or terrific as Blackgang Chine. The principal use made of the Chine is said to be that of a receptacle for smuggled goods, many hundred casks of which are sometimes secreted in its cavities, and there securely concealed."[2] Albin, speaking of the headland of Dunnose in 1795, says :—" It is well known to seamen as a place which they would anxiously endeavour to steer clear of."

Warner, writing in the same year, says : " The rude promontory of Dunnose now presents itself, the waters of which are so deep that first rate men-of-war may approach within half a mile of its cliffs. The scenery of the shore here becomes truly wonderful. From Luccombe to Bonchurch the downs of St. Boniface heave themselves into the clouds on the right, while huge masses of disjointed rock, of all shapes and in all directions, lie scattered in ruinous disorder below ; and impress the mind with an idea of those tempestuous conflicts, which shake the very foundations of nature."[3]

Sir Henry Englefield's description, given a century ago, is the best : " The sequestered little valley of Luccombe, which forms a semi-oval basin, is open to the eastward. A farm and a few detached cottages are scattered over this little dale, which is not destitute of wood, and in which rise several copious springs, whose united rills fall into the sea through the chine. The road winds round the head of the valley and again ascends the great hill which forms the south-eastern point of the

[1] *Exch. Decree*, 1724–5, Hilary, No. 250.
[2] Hassell, *Tour to the I. W.*, vol. ii, pp. 4–6.
[3] Warner, *Hist. of I. W.*, p. 191.

Island. The first view of the southern coast from this elevated point is extremely striking, the eye ranges over a boundless expanse of waters from an elevation of at least six hundred feet, and the road is so steep and winding, among vast broken masses of rock, that for a moment the traveller does not perceive how he is to descend from the giddy height on which he stands, and which has all the appearance of a precipice overhanging the sea."[1]

THE MANOR OF BONCHURCH.

The manor and the parish, it may be stated here, were not the same thing. The parish may be defined "as that circuit of ground which is committed to the charge of one patron, vicar, or minister having charge of souls therein." The word is derived from the Anglo-Saxon, and of early date, being mentioned in the laws of King Edgar, *circa* 970.

The manor, on the other hand, was a term generally used in the Domesday Book for an area described as already existing at the time of the Conqueror, and was a Saxon institution under him, as it was a Norman one afterwards. In both instances it was a landowner's estate, divided into the "lord's demesne," and "land held in villenage." This arrangement was general, whether the manor was in royal or in private hands. It may be said, moreover, that, with very few exceptions, no manor in England is of later date than 18 Edward I.

The recorded history begins with the entry in Domesday Book :—

Terra Willelmi filii Azor.

Willelmus, filius Azor, tenet, de Rege, *Bonecerce*. Estan tenuit, de comite Godwino, in alodium, pro manerio. Tunc, geldabat pro una virgata. Modo, pro nichilo. Terra est dimidia carucata. Ibi sunt 3 bordarii. T. R. E. valebat 30 solidos; et post, et modo, 20 solidos.[2]

TRANSLATION :—

Land belonging to William the son of Azor.

William the son of Azor holds Bonecerce of the King. Estan held it, allodially of earl Godwine for a manor. It then paid geld for 1 virgate; now for nothing. There is land for half a plough. There are 3 bordars. In the time of King Edward it was worth 30 shillings; and afterwards and now (it is) worth 20 shillings.

"*William, the son of Azor, holds Bonecerce of the King.*" This notice differs from that of the manor first described—all lands at this time were held "by the King," as was the case at Luccombe, or "of the King," as in the present instance. Bonchurch was not a crown property originally, it became so by the forfeiture of the Godwine family estates after the battle of Hastings, and was included in the twenty-one manors bestowed by William Fitz Osbern on his follower, William, son of Azor, in recognition of his services.

"*Estan held it, as a manor of Earl Godwine, as an alod.*" Estan was probably a small freeholder under the Saxon earl. In the pre-

[1] *Picturesque Account of the Island*, p. 72.
[2] Warner's *Domesday Hampshire*, p. 298.

Luccombe Chine, 1909.

Domesday tenure of land, "an alod" would represent the estate of the original settler, whose descendant remained in occupation of the ancestral estate, rendering his services to the king. There is one other Estan named in the Record, as holding one hide from king Edward, in the Clere Hundred, on the mainland, but there is no evidence to show the relationship, if any existed.

"*It then paid geld for 1 virgate; now for nothing*"—the now, meaning the time of the Conqueror. A virgate was thirty acres—a yardland—the taxable area on which the assessment was based. The reason for the reduction is not disclosed; it was possibly a personal favour shown to earl Godwine by the King, who had married his sister.

"*There is land for half a plough. There are 3 bordars.*" The description furnishes a rough estimate of the land actually cultivated in 1086—some sixty acres—and is interesting for the purpose of furnishing a comparison with the return given in the "compotus," or farm bailiff's account, rendered two centuries later—56 Henry III (1270). The bordars belonged to the cottage class of tenants, having allotments of five or seven acre plots of land given them, and who, in return, worked one or more days, as agreed, on the demesne farm, being possibly by this time a wage earning class, since the size of their holdings was not sufficient to keep their families.

"*In the time of King Edward it was worth 30 shillings; it was afterwards, and is now, worth 20 shillings.*" The decline shown in the monetary value may well be taken as an indication that here, as elsewhere, the devastation following the Norman Conquest had not been wholly repaired at the time of the survey.

It is evident that when the compilation of the Domesday Book was entered upon, a large area of the land comprised in the Bonchurch Manor was uncultivated. A rough estimate of 60 acres—half a ploughland—is mentioned in the record, and the estimate answers for the purpose of instituting a comparison with a "compotus," or bailiff's account, rendered for the manor farms of Bonchurch and Rewe. Both documents are of considerable antiquity, belonging to the latter part of the 13th century; a period corresponding to the closing year of Henry III.'s reign. The Rolls are written in the cramped and abbreviated Latin of the time, and thus it is difficult to give an accurate rendering. They are contained in the Ministers' Accounts,[1] and a translation is supplied in the Appendix No. 1 to this book. The "compotus" furnishes the yearly statement rendered by the officer having charge of the Grange farms, to the seneschal, or steward of the De Insula estates, residing at Bouecombe, near Carisbrooke. Both farms were the property of "dominus William de Insula."

A study of the rolls will show that no great change in the amount of land under cultivation had taken place in the interval between 1086 and 1272. The area, now in hand, under wheat, is stated to be twenty six acres; of barley, ten acres; of oats, eight; and of vetches, two acres and a half, or some forty-six acres in all.

[1] Bundle 984. No. 3.

The Bonchurch reeve—"Ralph atte Cheriton" gives with great care and minuteness all the details connected with the management of the property. He brings forward into his financial statement at the commencement of the year the arrears debited against him at the close of the preceding account, and at the end of the year the deficit owing, all but a few pence remains substantially the same. The total receipts, classed under the headings of rents, court fees, fines, perquisites, sale of corn, and, of money received from incidental sources, amount to £7. 19s. 7d.

There is no certain method of comparing the value of money then and now, but a recent writer[1] says: "that moneys of the thirteenth century, multiplied by 24, will approximately give the relative value." In the present case, if we use 20 for the multiplier, the receipts would correspond to £160, present day values.

The disbursement expenses—necessary and extraordinary— for working the farm, amount to £2. 3s. 3d.; the taxes to the Crown and to the lord of the manor are £2. 17s. 4½d., or, a total of £5. os. 7½d. At the close of the yearly account there is owing from the bailiff the sum of £2 8s. 11½d.. No mention is made of any live stock beyond the ten boves or oxen, necessary for ploughing. The absence of stock cattle is noticeable. It means that Bonchurch was mainly down or woodland, having very little arable ground attached to the manor. A pigeon house —"columbariam" furnished twenty-four pigeons. Another contribution of twenty-nine hens was received from church-scot.[2]

The labour employed in tilling the farm was furnished mainly by the "feudal services" of the customary tenants, "customarii" as they are called, representing the "bordarii" of the Domesday period, and giving certain services in cultivating the demesne lands. In return for these services an allotment of five to seven acres of land and a cottage were given them. In addition a money payment was made—the customarii being a class half way on the road to freedom. Two of the tenants owing service had compounded these yearly services for a fixed payment of 12 shillings.

"Rewe," or "Rue," a word derived from "*rew*," a coppice or thick wood (Albin says, "the French word for street, in allusion to the opinions of those who are advocates for the island having been a peninsula"), the other manor mentioned in the return, was located in the parish of Godshill. No reference is made to it in Domesday Book. The manor is mentioned in the composition deed drawn up, *cir.* 1266, between the monks of Quarr Abbey and the rector of Godshill, concerning the tithes of the farm.[3] A further reference occurs, 8 Edward I (1280), where the manor is enumerated amongst the estates belonging to "dominus John de Insula." In the return made by the Dean of the Island in 1305, it is stated "that the abbot of Quarr had all the great tythes of John Lisle's demesne, at Rewe, and a moiety of the small tythes there."[4]

[1] Chas. Wall, *Shrines of British Saints*, p. 177.
[2] See *Glossological Index*.
[3] Madox.
[4] Albin's *Hist. I. W.*, p. 547.

There is recorded on a Patent Roll the following :—

1306. Oct. 13. Commission of Oyer and Terminer to William Bereford, Thomas de Warblyngton and Richard de Borhunte, on complaint by John de Insula—that John de Gorges, Thomas le Noreys and others, entered his free warren at Rewe, hunted therein and carried away hares and rabbits.[1]

Another reference occurs in the Subsidy Roll, A.D. 1431—" Ricardus Corderay de Rewe, fermor, seisitus fuit, ut de libero tenemento 4ta parte i feodi militis in Rewe in dicta insula "[2]—or, in other words, " Richard Cordray, farmer, of Rewe, was seised of a free tenement—the fourth part of a Knight's fee—in Rewe in the said island."

The farm is shown on the Popham estate map, of 1729, as comprising 268 acres; this area including 15 acres of grass and 75 acres of down land. The area under cultivation when Henry le Yongge had charge, five centuries earlier, was 70 acres, more or less. A marked contrast to the Bonchurch farm is shown in the number of sheep, one hundred and thirty-eight hoggets (one year old sheep), and two hundred lambs, pastured here.

The labour service is furnished by ten customary (villein) tenants, paid labour also being employed. The yearly wage of the herdsmen was three shillings, that of the shepherd being ninepence more. The wheat was sold at 4*s.* 4*d.* per quarter. The taxes paid, £5. 0*s.* 7½*d.*, would represent, as rental, etc., in present day values, £100.

OF THE MANOR LORDS.

The earliest ground landlord, of whom we have certain knowledge, holding the manor of Bonchurch, is earl Godwin. Born of humble parentage, he became, by his abilities, Earl of the West Saxons, and during the Confessor's reign had Hampshire under his immediate administration. His wife Gytha held Wroxall, and his sons, Harold and Tosti, possessed Shanklin with other valuable manors at the western side of the island. These estates, after the battle of Hastings, in 1066, reverted to the Crown by right of conquest.

A.D. 1066–1086.—William, son of Azor, followed the Earl in his tenure, Bonchurch being included in the large estates bestowed on him by his overlord, William Fitz Osbern, as the reward for his loyal support and service. The more important of these properties were situated in and around the neighbourhood of Brading, Arreton, Newchurch, Motteston, and Freshwater. He probably exercised an active, personal supervision over the management of the estates, since the Domesday record, twenty years later, shows that twenty-eight of the original holders had been evicted, not leaving one in possession. And, in a later list, eight new tenants are found installed, whilst eight manors held " in demesne " are in charge of bailiffs.

It has been assumed hitherto that the " Azor " brothers and " the son of Stur " came over from Normandy in the train of William Fitz

[1] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 1301—1307.

[2] *Subs. R.*, Box 173, No. 84, p. 365.

Osbern. Authorities are divided on the question as to the Saxon or Norman ancestry of the Azor and Stur families. "Close examination," says Mr. Horace Round,[1] "reveals the fact that the three great barons of the Isle of Wight at the time of Domesday, William the son of Stur and Gozelin and William the sons of Azor, held each of them half a virgate on the manor of Bowcombe, a seat of the chief lord," and further adds: "There are, among its lay holders of land, but three tenants-in-chief, namely, William the son of Stur, and William and Gozelin, sons of Azor. I have been fortunate enough to discover a charter containing some information about the first of the three."[2] The full text of the charter referred to is:—

"Abbey of Marmoutier—Tours.

"Notification that Hugh de Insula [*temp.* Will: II], son of William of Stur (*Sturi*), of the Isle of Wight (*Guitti*), gave St. Martin, of Marmoutier and his monks, the tithe of the mill of Torlavilla, which he held of the count of Normandy, by hereditary right, and with the consent of his brothers Rotger and Gervase; for which Ralf, the prior, gave him in love a certain mule, which he gave his brother Roger, who was about to go to Rome."

Mr. Round continues:—"Tourlaville lay some two miles to the east of Cherbourg, and identification is confirmed by the fact that William, the son of Estur, a namesake of the Domesday tenant, held by knight service, in the bailiwick of Cherbourg, in 1172. The long continuance in the Isle of the name of 'Estur' renders the above discovery peculiarly welcome."[2]

The following excerpt lends additional support to the statement:—

"Richard de Redvers . . . . had been invested with the seigniory and demesnes of the Isle of Wight by Henry I in the beginning of his reign, and from that time the surnames of the feudatories who held of the Honour point to the Côtentin as their parent country. From the like connection William, son of Robert Estur, of the Isle of Wight, became a feudatory of Engelger de Bohun, in the Côtentin, where, with the consent of his lord, he gave to the Abbey of Montebourg the church of Thiéville and certain tenements in the parish."[3]

Ellis, in his *Introduction to Domesday,* gives three indices:—

(*a*) Of "Tenants in Capite," naming two Azors, one each in Wiltshire and Nottingham.

(*b*) Of "Persons holding land, in the time of King Edward and previous to Domesday survey." Under this heading fifteen Azors are named as holding lands in different counties—none of them apparently being in Hampshire.

(*c*) Of "Under-tenants of land at the formation of the survey," he names three, one each in Hampshire, Lincoln, and Middlesex.

No distinction appears to be drawn between the "Azors" holding "time of king Edward" and those holding between that reign and 1086, which might have aided a decision being arrived at. By many it may be considered unlikely that fifteen "Azors" from Normandy settled in different counties in England between 1066 and 1086, one of them holding lands in eighteen counties. It must be remembered, however, that

[1] V. C. H., *The Domesday Survey*, vol. i, p. 408. [2] *Ibid.*, p. 426.
[3] *Mag. Rot. Sc. Norm.*, Stapleton, p. 27.

a Norman court-party existed in England and had favourable consideration shown during the Confessor's reign. The great ecclesiastical benefice of Bosham, Hants, valued under the Confessor at £300 yearly, was conferred on his Norman chaplain Osbern, who was brother to William Fitz Osbern, later first lord of the Isle of Wight. Although the court party was broken up on earl Godwin's return to power, it is yet conceivable that some members having the Azor cognomen may have settled down and acquired lands prior to the invasion.

On the other hand, a well known writer, Mr. Percy Stone, "claims all three as belonging to undoubted Saxon families who held land in Hampshire as well," adding, "this brings us to the fact that the King by escheat held the greater part of the island, either himself or by his thegns, the rest being divided between the great Saxon families of Azor and Stur, who had held under the Confessor, and had gradually swallowed all the smaller fry, as is plainly set forth in the record. Besides the two principal landowning families, Azor and Stur, as I have said before, were Saxon to the backbone."

Be this as it may, a scrutiny of the names of those holding lands in the Isle of Wight, mentioned in the Domesday Book, either "of king Edward," or, in possession as "free-holders"—rather strengthens the impression of the Norman descent of both the "Azor" and "Stur" families, since the name of Azor is not found amongst those holding pre-conquest manors. A like result also follows in 1086, with two exceptions—a sub-tenant of the name is mentioned holding lands from Gozelin Fitz Azor.

William Fitz Stur is also found holding land in the county on the mainland, both in the Hundred of Christchurch and in King's Sombourne, estates of which the Saxon holders, Edric and Odo, had been dispossessed.

A.D. 1086–1101.—In the interval between 1086 and the regrant of the "lordship of the Island" to Richard de Redvers by king Henry I., *circa,* 1101-7, nothing is heard of the "Azor" family in connection with their estates. What became of them? Hillier remarks: "That during the period in which the lordship of the Island was in abeyance, it may be conjectured that large confiscations of land took place. Of the names mentioned in Domesday that of Stur (de Estur) only is afterwards recognised."[1]

There is no evidence forthcoming of any forfeiture of the Fitz-Azor estates having occurred. From statements in the Record it may be inferred that the elder of the brothers had no male issue to succeed him, for his nephew is mentioned in two instances as being then in charge of lands belonging to him:—"The same William holds Berardinz (Brading) and his nephew (holds it) of him." Again, in the notice referring to Brandestone (in Newchurch), another of the manors belonging to William Fitz Azor, "of this land, William's nephew holds one virgate."[2]

[1] Hillier, *Antiqt. I. W.*, p. 70. [2] V. C. H., *The Domesday Survey*, vol. i, p. 521.

A charter of earl Richard de Redvers, *cir.* 1161, entitled "Carta Fundationis et Confirmat, Ricardi Comitis Exoniæ,"[1] furnishes a faint clue to the disposition of the estates. It recites a gift made to the church of St. Nicholas in Castro, in Carisbrooke, in memory of earl Baldwin, by four island landowners who had been his chief barons :—"*Hugo Gernon et Guarinus de Halla et Brienus de Insula et Galfridus Jordani filius.*" The earliest authentic records show that the estates of the two Azor brothers were held by Galfridus filius Jordani de Insula; Brien de Insula; Guarinus de Aula, of St. Lawrence; and the Trenchard family, of Shalfleet. No evidence has been met with to show how the property devolved, unless by marriage, and this might well constitute the bond which associated these landholders together so frequently as co-witnesses to the charters of the time.

OF THE "DE INSULA" FAMILY.

A.D. 1101.—Bonchurch is found in the possession of the De Insula family from an early date. Jordan de Insula is conjecturally the ancestor of whom definite mention is made. He was, inferentially, descended from William, son of Stur, and probably a follower of Richard (1) de Redvers, whose charter, granting lands, *circa* 1101-1107, to the canons of Christ Church, Twynham, he attested.[2] He also witnessed Roger del Estre's grant of Apse manor to the same foundation. Since an anniversary was kept in pious memory of Jordan de l'Isle, it is probable he was a donor of land also, though no documentary proof testifies to such a gift.[3]

The alternative surnames of "Estre," "del'Estre," "L'Estra," "de I'Isle," are oftentimes found indifferently applied and obviously to the same person in the deeds of the time. It is not far fetched to suggest that the Jordan de l'Isle last referred to was the same personality as the Jordan de Insula, ancestor of the family found later settled at Wodyton, and acquiring his estates through marriage with a daughter of Fitz Azor parentage. In support of this contention the fact may be instanced of a son of Jordan—"Geoffrey de l'Isle"—attesting a gift of land at Freshwater.

The earliest residence of the De Insula family was situated at Wodyton ("Wudatún," A-S; "Wodeton," Norman; "Wootton," or "Wotton," in modern English) on the northern side of the island. The associations of the family with the Bonchurch Manor nevertheless seem to have been close. No local evidence indicates the ancient site where the "hall" stood, but the existence of the fish ponds, or stews, generally located beside the residential houses, for the storing of fish for use on fast days, is made clear by the following excerpt—

"1299. March 16. Commission of Oyer and Terminer issued to Peter Mallore and John Randolph, on complaint by John de Insula, that while he was away on the King's service in Gascony and under his protection Robert de Herslade with a multitude of malefactors cut down and rooted up trees in his woods of Wodeton hunted in his free warren there and at

[1] W., *App.*, No. 51. [2] *Monasticon*, vol. iv. [3] W. & W., *Hamp.*, vol. iii, p. 128.

Bonechirche fished in his stews there and carried away trees, rabbits, and fish from those places. . . . .[1]

Sir John Oglander alludes in his "Memoirs" (p. 10) to the fact that in earlier days "the Undercliff swarmed with game—partridges, pheasants, curlews, plovers, gulls, and other wildfowl, and the creeks and woodlands of the island offered almost as many attractions to the sportsman."

A royal warrant, given at Westminster, 7th June, 34 Edward I. (1306), granting free warren to John de Insula on his demesne lands at Schentling, Bonechirch, Rewe. . . . had been issued.[2] It may be surmised that Bonchurch would be visited in turn for the purpose of sport by the manor lord. Another knightly family—the De Aulas—and later, the Russels, of Yaverland, had a residence at St. Lawrence, whilst the "De Esturs," of Whitwell and Gatcombe, had free warren over their "Old Park" estates. The "De Wolvertons," of Shorwell, had a hunting lodge at St. Lawrence, the ruinous remains of it—now known as Wolverton Chapel—are still to be seen.

According to Berry,[3] Jordan married Hawise, but no documentary evidence is adduced in support. A reference is made in an early charter[4] to a brother—"Hugonis fratris Jordani"—granting land at Shorwell, an estate in which his nephew would seem, from the context, to have had a reversionary interest—"consensu Gaufridi filii Jordani." The Domesday Book records that "Gozelin, son of Azor, holds 2 hides and 1 virgate of land at Shorwell." The year of Jordan de Insula's death is nowhere stated.

A.D. 1131–1163.—Geoffrey (1) de Insula, son and heir of Jordan, succeeded. He witnessed the foundation Charter of Quarr Abbey, *circa* 1131-2. If he was of full age when he attested the deed, he was born by or before 1110. He witnessed the grant by Adeliza, wife of Richard de Redvers, of the manor of Ouvelay, in Berkshire, to the abbey of Montebourg, before 1135.[5] A charter of earl Baldwin was also attested by him, between 1135 and 1156. His sonship is set forth in his own charter, entitled "Carta Galfridi de Insula de Molindino de Schaldeflete—quod ego Galfridus de Insula filius Jordani concessi abbati &c. sancte Mariæ de Quarraria."[6] The date of the charter is generally assigned to *circa* 1150, but it is probably a little later than count Baldwin's death in 1155-6. There are other deeds extant attested by him—"Carta Thomæ de Aula de Terra in Bridelsford,"[7] also "Alwarie de Neweton's" charter,[8] both deeds granting lands to Quarr. The last deed is assigned to the time of Henry III., but judging from the style, is earlier in point of time, *circa* 1161. Mention is made in the Confirmation Charter of Richard de Redvers, *circa* 1155-6, of Geoffrey, as one of four island landholders contributing to the further endowment of the chapel of St. Nicholas in Castro, Carisbrooke Castle. He witnessed the deed supple-

[1] *Cal. Pat. R.*, Edw. I, 1292—1301.
[2] *Calend. Rotul. Chart.*, 34 Edw. I.
[3] *Hamp. Geneal.*, pp. 173–176.
[4] W., *App.*, No. 51.
[5] Hillier, *Hist. & Antiqt. I. W.*, part ii, p. 67.
[6] W., *App.*, No. 54.
[7] *Ibid.*, No. 32.
[8] *Ibid.*, No. 67.

mentary to Hugo de Witvill's charter[1] granting land and a mill at Sway. The date is *circa* 1158 since it bears the attestation of Thomas à Beckett as Chancellor. A charter[2] of Richard (2) de Redvers, dated 1161, was witnessed by Geoffrey, with others at Karesbroch.

He left at his death—the date of which is not given—three sons—Walter, William, and Jordan.

A.D. 1163–1221.—WALTER DE INSULA, son and heir, was next in possession, and inferentially was born by, or before, 1152. He served the office of bailiff of the Island. It has been suggested that he married a daughter of Robert de Giros, whose charter he had witnessed since the arms and seal attached to the deed—"three lyoncelles on a chief"—were adopted later as the arms of the De Insula family, but no documentary evidence in support, is accessible.

The following is a brief summary of the charters witnessed by him :—

(*a*) *circa* 1173—A grant of one acre of land given by him at the dedication of the church of Carisbrooke.[3]

(*b*) 1177–84—As "Walt'o de Insula" he attested the Newport Charter.[4]

(*c*) *c.* 1184—the Confirmation charter of William de Vernon.

(*d*) *c.* 1184–9—Attests as—"Waltero de Insula tunc temporis ballivo insulæ"—the "Wellow" charter,[5] granting lands, etc. Worsley assigns this deed to *temp.* Henry 3rd, wrongly, since a scrutiny of the several witnesses named shows that it is of the time of Henry 2nd, who died 1189. The grant is made after the grantor succeeded to the lordship of the island.

(*e*) *c.* 1190. He is mentioned in a charter[6] of John de Marisco, rector of Brading, granting land—"the land which Walter de Insula and his mother . . . . gave at the dedication of the church there." The dedication took place about 1190.

(*f*) *c.* 1196. He attests the charter of William de Vernon to the abbey of St. Mary of Montebourg.[7]

(*g*) 1196–1216—He was a witness to a grant made, between these dates, by William de Redvers, earl of Devon, *temp.* Richard I and John.[8]

(*h*) 1205—He is a principal to a deed of agreement entered into between the Prior of Christ Church and "Walter of the Islande," relating to the patronage of the chapel at Shorwell.[9]

(*i*) *c.* 1216—but possibly of earlier date—*circa* 1200, he is a grantor of lands on St. Boniface down, to Quarr Abbey—his son assenting to the gift.[10]

Dying in 1221, he left issue two sons, Geoffrey and Jordan. He also had a married daughter living in 1199, as shown by the following entry[11] :—

"Preceptum fuit Waltero de Insula quod *esset* coram domino Rege et haberet cartas quas habet de Will'o de Vernun avo Margerie de Vernun de terra in Freskewater. Qui venit et dicet quod revera Gaufridus pater habuit cartas de terra illa. Sed ipse maritavit filiam suam Will'o de Braibof et ei dedit in maritagium centum solidos terre in Freskewater."

[1] W., *App.*, No. 59.
[2] *Monasticon*, vol. iv, p. 305.
[3] W. & W., *Hampshire*, vol. iii, p. 128.
[4] Hillier, *Hist. & Antiqt. I. W.*, part ii, p. 73.
[5] W., *App.*, No. 65.
[6] Stratton, *Island Quarterly*, vol. i, p. 383.
[7] *Cal. of Doc. France*, vol. i, p. 321.
[8] *Hist. MSS. Com.*, p. 454, Br. Mus.
[9] Stone, *Archit. Antiqt. I. W.*, vol. ii, p. 55.
[10] W., *App.*, No. 64.
[11] *Placita in Crastino Clausi Pasche A° Regni Reg. John* (1199).

The William de Vernon referred to in the entry is doubtless the first of his name, a son of Richard (1) de Redvers, and the granddaughter Marjorie, held Freshwater in the reign of King John.

Of Walter's two brothers—William and Jordan—little is known beyond casual references to them in the De Redvers' charters. "Willelmo de Insula" attested, with his brother Walter, a De Vernon charter, granting land to the Abbey of Montebourg.

A.D. 1221-1252.—GEOFFREY (2) DE INSULA, son and heir of Walter, "filii et heredis mei," as set forth in the father's charter to Quarr—was the next lord of the manor. It would appear, from a deed entered on the "Fine Rolls," 8 Henry III, 1224, that some delay occurred in granting seisin of the estates. The text of the deed is given as follows:

"De fini Galf'ri de Insula." "Galfridus de Insula finem fecit cum domino Rege per xxxv libras, pro relevio suo de terra que fuit Walteri de Insula patris sui in insula de Wict' et quo ipsius Galfridus jure contingit hereditarum. Et mandatum est Waleramo Teutonico, quod accepta securitate de medietate illius finis domino Rege reddedendo ad festum sancti Michaelis anno tunc viiij et de alia medietate domino Rege reddendo a Pascha anno tunc ix° plena ei inde seisina habere faciat. Teste Rege, apud Bedef' vj die Augusti."[1]

The purport of the deed is that a fine of £35 had to be paid before he obtained possession of the estates.

Geoffrey held lands in other counties. His name appears in the "Testa de Nevill" for fees in Devonshire—

"Nomina eorum qui tenent feoda militaria in Comitatu Devoniæ et de quibus ipse tenent.

Galfridus de Insula tenet in Legh 4ta partem unius foedi de eodem. . . .[2]

In an inquisition as to fees, etc., for the "Hundred of Stanbergh," Geoffrey is returned as holding the quarter part of one fee of William de Clavill of the honour of Gloucester.

The following is a brief record of charters witnessed by him:—

(*a*) *c.* 1184-9. The "Wellow" charter, of William de Vernon.[3]

(*b*) "Galfrido de Insula" witnesses with Waltero de Insula—probably his father, a grant made by William de Redvers to "God's House," Southampton. The earliest document relating to this Hospital is a charter given by Richard I, in 1196.[4] This is possibly the date of the grant in question.

(*c*) 1221-1252—The charter of Robert le Giros granting land at Whippingham to Quarr Abbey.[5] The date of this charter has been given as *circa* 1154, but a scrutiny of the names of the attesting witnesses will show that the deed is of later date than the one assigned to it.

(*d*) Geoffrey's own charters given together by Worsley and assigned by him to the time of Henry II are probably of much later date. The second deed entitled "*Carta altera ejusdem Galfridi*,"[6] is the earliest in point of time and assigned by Mr. Percy G. Stone to the time of Stephen, and by Worsley to the succeeding reign. The charter is more

[1] *Exc. e Rot. Finium.*, vol. i, p. 119, Roberts.
[2] *T. de N.*, p. 178.
[3] W., *App.*, No. 65.
[4] *Hist. MSS. Com.*, p. 454.
[5] W., *App.*, No. 56.
[6] *Ibid.*, No. 58.

probably of the 13th century and may conveniently be considered first. It runs thus—

"Galfridus filius Waltero de Insula salutem, &c. Noveritis me pro saluta animæ meæ et Hawisiæ uxoris meæ et omnium antecess. . . . . concessisse abbati de Quarr, terras. . . ."

This would suggest that Hawise was then living, and it lends support to the view that this charter is the earlier of the two. Moreover, this latter contention is borne out by an examination of the names of the attesting witnesses. The two first named are "Hugone priore de Karesbroc, Rich. Priore de Apuldurcombe," and both are said to be of the time of Stephen. The names do not occur elsewhere, and so they tell us nothing. There is documentary evidence that "Tho. de Aula," the third witness, was living, of age, and attesting deeds from 1184 to 1228. "Jordano de Insula," another signatory and brother to the grantor, witnesses charters from 1252 and holds of the castle of Carisbroc in 1263. "Rog. de Moubray," the last witness, attests various deeds between 1206 and 1228.

The other charter omits the sonship, and from a slight difference in the phraseology would seem to suggest that Hawise was then dead. Of the witnesses "Willo de Insula, filio nostro et herede," succeeded to the estates in 1252; the date of the deed is thus prior to 1252. "Waltero de Insula" [of Gatcombe] follows, and though living in 1252, was dead by 1256. "Rich. de Langford" died in 1254; "Johanne de Wyvill," a knight by 1263, and living in 1280. The other named witnesses to the charter are found attesting deeds of later date than the witnesses named in the earlier charter.

In 1228 Geoffrey witnessed the agreement between the abbot of Quarr and Thomas de Niweham and Sabina his wife.[1] Various other references occur in the chronicles of the period.

On November 9th, 1224, the charge of the daughter and heiress of Baldwin le Estur, of Gatcombe, was made over to him, after having been previously entrusted by the Bishop of Winchester to the care of the sheriff. Later on she married Walter, a son of Geoffrey.[2]

In 1229 he was appointed, with others, a justice of assize, and, in 1232, a collector with Philip de Glamorgan of fortieths in the Isle of Wight.[3] In 1236 the king gave him charge and custody of the castles of Winchester and of Porchester :—

20 Hen. III.—"Rex commisit Galfridus de Insula castr'de Winton et Portecestr' cum foresta Portecestr' et comitatu Sutht.' "[4]

His wife Hawise (the surname has not been discovered) bore him four sons. William, who succeeded his father, Jordan, John—referred to in a Patent Roll bearing date November, 1295, and Walter.

Geoffrey died in 1252, the writ, "*de diem clausit extremum*," bearing date 13th September, 36 Henry III (1252).

[1] W., *App*, No. 68.
[2] W. & W., *Hamp.*, vol. iii, p. 154.
[3] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1231—1234.
[4] *Rot. Origin. in Curia. Scac.*, *Abbrev.*, vol. i, p. 1.

"*De terra Galfr' de Insula custodienda.* Mandatum est Amicia comitissa Devon' quod terram que fuit Galfridus de Insula quam cepimus in manum Regis et cujus custodia ad Rex pertinet salvo, custodiat donec heres ipsius Galfridi ad Rege venit et Rex inde fecit quod de jure fuit faciend '.

"Teste Rege, apud sanct ' Edmund, xiij die Septembris."[1]

The inquisition taken afterwards is undated. The jurors found he was seised of the following fees :—

"Southampton (unspecified)—7½ fees held of Baldwin, son and heir of Baldwin sometime earl of Devon, who is in the King's ward, by knights' service; ½ virgate held of Roger de Aula and ½ virgate land held of Richard de Affeton by service of 7*s*."[2]

"William de Insula is his heir and of full age—Willelmus de Insula proximus heres est et plenæ ætatis."[3]

A.D 1252–1272. WILLIAM DE INSULA, son and heir of Geoffrey, did homage for the estates, 28 Sept., 36 Henry III.

"Pro Willelmo de Insula—Rex recepta fidelitate Willelmi de Insula filii et heredis Galfridi de Insula de omnibus terris et tenementis que idem Galfridus tenuit de Baldewino de Insula filium et heredem Baldewino quondam Comitis Devoniæ qui est in custodia Regis, reddidit ei omnibus terris et tenementis prædicta. Et mandatum est Vicecomiti Suthamptoniæ quod de omnibus terris et tenementis prædictis unde prædictus Galfridus fuit seisitus in dominio suo ut de feodo die quo obiit predicto Willelmo plenam seisinam habere faciat. Et dat idem Willelmus tres marcas auri pro hoc brevi et pro relevio suo quas Rege solvet in garder' sua in festo Beati Eduardi proximo futuro. Habet terram in comitatu Suthamptoniæ preterea solvit.

"Teste Rege, apud Windsore, xxviij die Septembris."[4]

Translation.

"The King has received the fealty of William de Insula, son and heir of Geoffrey de Insula, for all the lands and tenements which the said Geoffrey held of Baldwin de Insula, son and heir, of Baldwin de Insula sometime earl of Devon, who is in ward to the King, and has restored to him all the lands and tenements aforesaid. And it is commanded to the Sheriff of Southampton that he receive reasonable security from the aforesaid William for all the lands and tenements aforesaid which the aforesaid Geoffrey was seised in his demesne as of the fee on the day he died, and that he give to the aforesaid William full seisin, etc., and the same William shall give three marks of gold for this brief and for his relief. . . .

"Witnessed by the King, at Windsor, on September 28th."

The extent of the lands, etc., are set forth in an inquisition taken 47 Henry III. The return is entitled :—

"Inquisicio de juribus et libertatibus pertinentibus ad castro de Karesbroc, ... dominus Willelmo de Insula tenet de domino castri predicti septem feoda militaria et dimidium et octavam partem unius feodi et debet inde domino castri de Karesbroc homagium et relevi et racionabili "[5] . . . .

Translation.

Inquisition of the rights and liberties belonging to the castle of Caresbroc, etc. [and the jurors say upon their oath that] "lord William de Insula holds of the lord of the Castle, aforesaid, seven Knights' fees and half a fee, and the eighth part of a fee, and there is due, therefore, to the Lord of the Castle

[1] *Exc. e Rot. Finium.*, vol. ii, p. 139, Roberts.
[2] *Cal. Inq. P. M.* (1904), p. 58.
[3] *Calend. Genealogic.*, vol. i, Chas. Roberts.
[4] *Exc. e Rot. Finium.*, vol. ii, p. 240, Roberts.
[5] *Add. MS.*, No. 24,789, p. 201 (Br. Mus.).

of Caresbroc homage and relief, and reasonable aid to make his eldest son a Knight, and for marrying his eldest daughter, and he ought to keep the said Castle in the time of war, and to protect the land of the said island in the time of war, and this at his own cost; and the said Lord William ought to do suit at the Court of the Lord of the Castle aforesaid, from three weeks to three weeks in the Court which is called the Knights' Court."

In the Fine Rolls, for the year 1254, the following notice is entered :—

1254. Sept. 29. Bordeaux. "Bond to William de Insula in 100 shillings for certain harness pertaining to his new knighthood [ad novam militiam suam] payable, at All Saints' next, at Bordeaux."[1]

Sir William, in conjunction with his brother, "Domino Jordano de Insula," attested "a quit claim on the part of Roger de Tycheburne to the chapel and chaplains of Lymerston, in the Isle of Wight, and in the land in Langred [Landguard] in Brading, which Geoffrey his uncle gave to the said chapel."[2] He died shortly before 1272. A strong proof of this is afforded by an assise of mort d'ancestor—in lieu of the inq. p.m. which is not traceable.

1 Edward I—(1272)—

m. 17d. Wodington and Applederford (South't). Appointment of Walter de Helyun to take the assise of mort d'ancestor arrayned by John de lisle ("de Insula") against Isabella de Fortibus, countess of Albemarle, touching the manors of

m. 6d. Wodington, Estapleford, Rude, C'lerton, Shorewell, Rewe, Shenclyng, Bonchurch (South't). Appointment of R. de Heliun to take the assise of mort d'ancestor, arraigned by John de lisle ("de Insula") against Isabella de Fortibus, countess of Albemarle, touching possession.

The original entry relating to the assise has been referred to and found to be correctly transcribed.

A.D. 1272–1304. SIR JOHN (I) DE INSULA, son and heir, of Wodynton, I. of W., and of Chute, co. Wilts, Knight, surnamed "De Bosco" by Worsley, was the next lord of the manor. Proof, however, is wanting that "Joh'es de Insula qui dicitur de Bosco" holding the eighth part of a fee, in Whippingham, from Will'i Russel, was the same personality as the—"dominus Johannes de Insula," holding seven and more fees from the Countess Isabella, and whose name occurs twice later in the feodary of 1280. On each occasion the distinctive title of "dominus" is prefixed, presumably to emphasise the fact that two different persons with the same name were referred to. It is possible that Worsley had other deeds before him in which Sir John is styled "de bosco," but in all such notices as occur in the records, he is termed either 'John de Insula,' 'de Insula Vecta,' or, more often, 'Joh'is de Insula de Wodyton.'

Sir John was of full age in 1280, since his name appears in the feodary, 8 Edward I :—

"dominus Johannis de Insula tenet vij feoda, etc., de Isabella de Fortibus comitissa Devon' et domina insulæ, in capite unde tenent in domino maneria de Roude, Apulderford, Woodyton, Chellerton, Shorwell, Bonechurch, Rewe, Holeway, Shentlyng et Whippingham."[3]

He was knighted by the King at Windsor, between November, 1278, and May, 1279. His wife, Nichola, was niece to and heiress of Matthew

[1] *Exc. e Rot. Finium.*, 1247—1258, Rec. Off.
[2] Baigent, *Family of De Lymersi*, *Br. Arch. Jour.*, 1858.
[3] W., *App.*, No. 30.

de Columbars, an important family holding estates in the counties of Hants and Wilts. By this marriage, the bailiwick in the forests of Chute, Fynkley, etc., with other valuable rights, were acquired by the De Insula family.

Matthew de Columbars = (1237) Maud, dr. of Eudo de Morville, co. Suth.
heir of Avice, widow (of Michael his brother), ob. 1272.

Michael de Columbars, ob. 1234. = Avice, dr. and h. of Elias Croc., ob. 1258. Inq. p. m., 43 Hen. III.

Nichola de Columbars, = Sir John de Insula,
dr. and heiress.

On a Close Roll, under date November 4th, 1281, there is entered :—

"To the treasurer and barons of the Exchequer—Whereas Matthew de Columbar(iis) has granted to John de Insula and Nichola, John's wife, his niece, the bailiwick of the King's forest of Chute and of the heaths (*brueriar*) of Andover, which are held of the King in chief and which render to the exchequer 10 shillings yearly and John is in full seisin of the bailiwick and has done his homage to the King therefor; the King orders them to acquit Matthew of the said 10*s*. yearly and to charge John and Nichola with it."[1]

Two notices are entered on Patent Rolls :—

"1294. July 12. Portsmouth. "Licence for John de Insula, tenant in chief, going on the King's service to Gascony, to let to farm, for 3 years, to whomsoever he will, land to the yearly value of £120 or £140 (sexcies vel septies libratas," also, "sexcies vel septies viginti libratarum").[2]

In the next year a similar notice appears :—

1295. Nov. 2. Udimore. "Licence to John de Insula . . . . who is going to Gascony on the King's service, to let all his lands to farm, for five years, to the abbots of Beaulieu and Quarr and to John de Insula, his uncle and Robert le Mercer."[3]

It would seem from the following entry in the Close Rolls that John de Insula did not proceed at once to France :—

1294. Nov. 12. "To the Sheriff of Southampton. Order to cause Geoffrey le Bole, Richard Pegge (and twenty-five others, whose names are given), men of John de Insula, who are about to set out in the King's service for Wales by his order, to be released from prison, at Winchester, where they are detained for burning houses, robberies."[4] . . . .

Sir John was probably home again sometime during the year 1297, since, in September, "the keeper of the park, at Ekynton, is ordered to cause John de Insula to have in that park four bucks of the king's gift."[5]

During his absence abroad his home interests suffered, as shown by the following notice :—

"1298. Sept. 13. Carlisle. "Pardon to Ralph Lavynton, by reason of his services in Scotland, of his outlawry, for not appearing before the justices of the Bench to answer touching a plea of John de Insula, that he render an account for the time he was the latter's bailiff in Wodeton, Bonechirche, Shorewell and Chut."[6]

[1] *Cal. Cl. R.*, Edw. I, 1279—1288.
[2] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 1292—1301.
[3] *Ibid.*
[4] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1288—1296.
[5] *Ibid.*, 1296—1302.
[6] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 1272—1354.

The following year further action was called for, a raid having been made on his Isle of Wight estates :—

" 1299. March 16. " Commission of Oyer and Terminer to Peter Mallore and John Randolph, on complaint by John de Insula that while he was away on the King's service, in Gascony, and under his protection, Robert de Hirslade with a multitude of malefactors cut down and rooted up trees in his woods of Wodeton . . . . hunted in his free warren at Wodeton and Bonechirche and fished in his stews there."[1] . . . .

Sir John's name does not appear in the writ issued, 26th January, 25 Edward I (1297), to the seventy-five barons to assemble at Salisbury, the 21st of September following. The name is given in a list immediately following :—" Knights called as Assistants to ye same Parliament being no barons."[2] His name is absent from the Roll, 6th February, 27 Edward I (1299), but in the writ, 29th December, 28 Edward I, summoning ninety-nine barons to a Parliament, 6th March, 1300, his name, " Jo' de Lisle, Baron of Wotton," is entered. He bore, " Or on a chief azure 3 lyons rampant of the first." It appears that Johannes de Insula, Dominus de Wodeton was amongst those who signed (but did not seal) the Barons' Letter to Pope Boniface viij, 29 Edward I (1301), determining that the king ought not to submit to the judgement of the Pope concerning the dominion of Scotland.[3]

Sir John was a baron of the Exchequer, Warden of the Island, in 1302, and High Sheriff of the County, 1302–3. References are entered in various rolls to sums of money due from him :—

1288. " John de Insula acknowledges that he owes to Stephen de Cornhull £8. to be levied in default . . . . of his lands and chattels, co. Sutht."[4]

1289. " . . . . acknowledges that he owes to William de Hamelton, clerk, 250 marks."[5]

1292. " . . . . that he owes John Giffard, Knt. le Jovene, 6½ marks."[6]

1300. " John de Insula Vecta acknowledges that he owes to . . . Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, 100 marks."[7]

Dying in 1304, the writ to the escheator is dated 10th June, and is couched in the usual terms :—

" *De terris capiendis in manum Regis.* Quia Johannes filii Will'i de Insula Vecta qui de nobis tenuit in capite, diem clausit extremum ut Rex accepit Mandatum est Waltero de Gloucestria, escaetori et quod omnes terras et tenementa de quibus idem Johannes fuit seisitus . . . . sine dilacione capiat in manum Regis. Et ea salvo. . . . Teste Rege, apud Strivelyn, x die Junii."[8]

Translation.

" *Of lands taken into the King's hands.* Whereas John son of William de Insula Vecta who held of us in chief, has closed his last day, as we have understood. We command you—Walter de Gloucester, escheator, etc., without delay to take into our hands all the lands and tenements of which the same John was seized, etc., and that you keep them safely, etc.—Witnessed by the King, at Strivelyn, on the 10th of June."

[1] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 1292—1301.
[2] *N. & Q.*, 5 ser., vol. v, p. 104.
[3] *Dep. K. P. Rec.*, 8th Rep, p. 186.
[4] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1279—1288.
[5] *Ibid.*, 1288—1296.
[6] *Ibid.*
[7] *Ibid.*, 1296—1302.
[8] *Exc. e Rot. Finium*, 32 Edw. I, m. 5.

The inquisition was taken on July 10th :—

"*Johannes de Insula Vecta, filius Willelmi de Insula Vecta.*"
Johannes de Insula, filius dicti Johannis de Insula defuncti, est propinquior haeres ejusdem Johannis et ætatis viginti trium annorum et dimidii. Sutht."[1]

The purport of the return being that "John, son of the aforesaid John, deceased, is the next heir, and aged twenty-three years and a half."

A.D. 1304–1332.—JOHN (2) DE INSULA, Baron Lisle, of Wodyton, Chute, and Walton, son and heir, was next seised of the manor. He did homage for the lands on August 5th :—

"*Sutht. De homagio capto.* Rex cepit homagium Johannis, filii et heredis Johannis, filii Will'i de Insula, defuncti, de omnibus terris et tenementis que idem Johannis, patris suus, tenuit de Rege in capite, die quo obiit, et ei terras illas et tenementa reddidit, et ideo mandatum est Waltero de Gloucestria, escaetori, etc., quod accepta securitate a præfato Johanne de rationabili relevio suo Regi reddedendo ad scaccarium Regis, eidem Johanni de omnibus terris et tenementis prædictis, et de quibus præfatus Johannes pater suus fuit seisitus . . . . et que occasione . . . . plenam seisinam . . . . salvo cujuslibet. Teste, Rege, apud villam sancti Johannis de Perth, v die Augusti."[2]

Translation.

"*Southampton. Of homage taken.* The King has received the homage of John, son and heir of John, son of William de Insula, deceased, for all the lands and tenements, which the said John his father held of the King in chief, on the day that he died; And it is commanded to Walter de Gloucester, escheator, etc., that he receive security from the aforesaid John, for his reasonable relief, to be paid into the King's exchequer; and that he should give to the said John full seisin of all the lands," etc.

He did homage also for the bailiwick of Chute Forest :—

"Southt.' 32 Edward I (1304)."

"Rex cepit homagium Joh'es fil' et heredis Joh'es fil' Will'i de Insula de battiæ forestariæ forest de Chuet quam idem Johannis patris suus tenuit de Rege pro magnam serjantiam."[3]

Sir John received the honour of Knighthood with Prince Edward in 1306 "by bathing and other ceremonies." Various references to him are found in the Rolls covering this period :—

1306. June 7. "Grant to John de Insula and his heirs, of free warren in all their demesne lands in Wodyton, Bridelsford, Schentling, Bonecherche, Rewe, Apeltreford, Schorewell, Celierton, Hortingeschit, Blakepanne, Mannesbrigge, Scherprix, and Rigge, co. Hants."[4]

A further reference occurs shortly afterwards :—

1306. June 13. "To the treasurer and barons of the Exchequer. Order to cause John de Insula, son and heir of John de Insula, and one of the executors of his will, to be acquitted £29. 5*s*. 10*d*. of the £42. 12*s*. 6*d*. due from him to the King for his relief for eight Knights' fees and the eighth part of a fee, and for a serjeanty, to wit, that of keeping the forest of Chute."[5]

[1] *Calend. Genealogic.*, vol. i, p. 668, Chas. Roberts.
[2] *Exc. e Rot. Finium*, 32 Edw. I, m. 4.
[3] *Abbrev. Rotul. Origin.*, vol. i, p. 134 (Rec. Com.).
[4] *Cal. Cl. R.*, vol. iii.
[5] *Ibid.*, p. 399, 34 Edw. I.

1306. "By bill of the exchequer for the remission, which the said John, one of the executors of the will of his father made to the King of £236. 6*s*. 11*d*., wherein the King was bound to the said deceased from the time of the war in Gascony."[1]

The same calendar contains a later reference to the time when John was in the King's service at Blaye, in Gascony. On the 13th of October, in the same year, a complaint is laid by Sir John before three Commissioners—William de Bereford, Thomas de Warblyngton, and Richard de Borhunte, similar to that made by his father seven years earlier:—

"that John de Gorges, parson of Newchirche, Thomas le Noreys, and certain other evil doers, with force, entered his free warren at Rewe and Bonechirche, hunted therein and carried away hares and rabbits."[2]

In the Patent Rolls, 2 Edward II., is entered—

1309. Aug. 16. "Protection, for three years, for John de Insula of the Isle of Wight, going beyond the seas." Also "letters nominating Roger de Prisland and Ralph de Wolverton his attorneys for the same period."[3]

"Sire John de Lisle, banneret (Edward II roll)" bore for his arms—"Or on a chief azure 3 lyons rampant of the first."[4]

1313. "Appointment during pleasure of John de Insula, to be a baron of the exchequer."[5]

1313. Sept. 26. "Commission to John de Insula (and another) to arrest and take 30 of the greater and better ships between the bridges (*sic*) of Plumuthe and Shorham and to levy men so that they shall be at the port of Wynchelse."[6]

The charge of Winchester Castle was given to him:—

8 Edward II (1315)—"Joh'i de Insula comitatu Suthampton' et castrum Rege Wynton' cum . . . . custodiendum quamdiu Rege placuerit, etc."[7]

In the month of May appears an entry:—

1316. May 20. "Appointment of John de Insula (and others) to tax according to the form delivered to them, the one fifteenth of moveable goods in the city and suburbs of London . . . . for the hosting for the war in Scotland."[8]

In the same year, on July 20th, he was sent to Yarmouth in connection with breaches of the peace and disputes between the Yarmouth men and those of the Cinque ports,[9] and on July 22nd he was appointed (with others) to assess the fifteenth in the city of London.[10]

The following summons was probably issued early in the year:—

"1316. 10 Edward II—

"De veniendo ad Regem cum equis et armis pro guerrâ Scotiæ . . . . Eodem modo mandatum est subscriptis videlicet (*inter alia*)—Johannis de Insula de Wyght."[11]

On a Patent Roll, dated Clarendon, 20 March, 1317, is a confirmation

[1] *Cal. Ch. R.*, vol. iii, 34 Edw. I.
[2] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 1301—1307.
[3] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 1307—1313.
[4] *N. & Q.*, vol. v, p. 103, 4th series.
[5] *Cal. Pat. R.*, Edw. II, 1313—1317.
[6] *Ibid.*
[7] *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.*, p. 214 (Rec. Com.).
[8] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 1272—1314.
[9] *Cal. Cl. R.*, Edw. II, 1313—1317.
[10] *Ibid.*
[11] *Syll. Rymer's F.*, vol. ii, part i, p. 295.

to the Abbot and Convent of Beaulieu of the undermentioned (*inter alia*) :—

"Remise which John de Insula, Knight, made to their house of all his right, by reason of his bailiwick in the forest of Chute, as well in the expeditation of the dogs of the Abbot and convent and of their men; as in any other exactions or demands by which he could have granted the liberty of deafforesting to the abbot and convent."[1]

In November of that year there is recorded :—

1317. Nov. 20. "Appointment of John de sancto Johanne, John de Insula, and James de Norton to be conservators of the peace for the County of Southampton with the usual powers of arresting and punishing offenders."[2]

A period of over four years elapses ere any further reference occurs :

1322. May 12. "To the sheriff of Southampton. Order to cause £20 to be levied of those who made fine with the King and to pay that sum to John de Insula (and others) for their expenses and for the carriage of £200 which the King appointed them to levy upon the knights and esquires of that county."[3]

On May 20th, John de Insula is appointed on a Commission to enquire into the fraudulent export of wools and felts.[4]

1322. Nov. 28. A licence is granted to Brother Adam de Stokes, a Friar preacher to hear the confessions of Sir John de Insula, Knight, his wife, and their children.[5]

The following year a long communication occurs in French, commencing—"Johannis de Insula relaxatio pro communicati Venetiarum." There are letters in Latin and in French from "Joh'an de Isle de Wight, chevalier," *re* five galleys from Venice, in the port of Southampton, filled with divers merchandise. In connection therewith follows :—

"A Proclamation—on April 10th—from the Mayor and Corporation of Southampton, narrating an affray between the patrons, merchants, masters and mariners, of five Venetian galleys, on one side, and the inhabitants of Southampton on the other, accompanied with loss of life and property, whereby the Venetians were liable to proceedings for felony and homicide, but the Mayor and Corporation announce the grant of a release in consideration of a certain sum of money received from the merchants of Venice."[6]

After an interval of three years is entered :—

1326. Aug. 15. "Appointment of John de Insula (and others) to survey the ships of over 50 tons in the towns of Southampton, Yaremouth, Newport in the Isle of Wight, and St. Helens and elsewhere."[7]

On July 14th, 1327, John de Insula is appointed on the Commission of the Peace for the Isle of Wight.[8]

1328. Feb. 20. York. "Commission of Oyer and Terminer to John de Insula Vecta, Ralph de Wolverton, and John Loveday, on complaint by Henry Trenchard, that Richard de Bourne (and others) broke his chests in his house at Shaldeflete in the Isle of Wight and carried away his goods and a writing obligatory by which Richard was bound to Henry in £4000, and other writings and muniments."[9]

[1] *Cal. Pat. R.*, Edw. II, 1313—1317.
[2] *Cal. Cl. R.*, Edw. II, 1317—1321.
[3] *Ibid.*
[4] *Cal. Pat. R.*, Edw. II, 1321—1324.
[5] *Bishop de Asserio's Reg.*, p. 509 (H. Rec. Soc.).
[6] *Cal. State Papers*, Venetian, vol. i, No. 18.
[7] *Cal. Pat. R.*, Edw. II, 1324—1327.
[8] *Ibid.*
[9] *Ibid.*

A similar commission was issued on 22nd March, 1331, on complaint by William de Monte Acuto, "that Thomas de Folkerby, parson of the church of Caulburn (with others) at Sweyneston, felled his trees and hunted in his free warren."

On a Patent Roll a similar notice appears under date April 16th, 1329:—"Commission of Peace to John de Insula, John de Glaumorgan, and Theobald Russell."[1]

The following year on the same rolls is entered—

1330. May 13. Appointment at the request of Queen Isabella, of John de Insula to have the custody of the lands of Richard Sifrewas, tenant in chief, with the marriage of the heir.[2]

In connection with his tenure of the bailiwick of Chute Forest, the following entry occurs:—

"Joh'es de Insula Vecta, chivalier finem fecit per centum solidos pro licencia habenda feoffandi Willelmum parsonam ecclesiæ de Bonechurche de quibusdam terris in Wodehous et de battia forestiæ de Chuet."[3]

A similar notice is also entered on the Patent Rolls—

1329. Nov. 8. Kenilworth. "Licence for John de Insula Vecta, Knight, to enfeoff William, parson of the churche of Bonechurche, of a messuage and 30 acres of land in Wodehous, and of the bailiwick of the forestry of Chute Forest, held in chief; and for the said William to grant the premises to the said John for life, with remainder to Bartholomew, son of the said John and Elizabeth his wife, in fee tail, with ultimate remainder, if they die without issue to the right heirs of the said John. By fine of 100s."[4]

Wodhouse would appear to have been the official residence of the bailiff or warden of the forest. This is shown by an inquisition following upon the death of Avice de Columbars, a member of a family who had long held the forest under the Crown:—

"The said Jury say, upon their oaths, that the said Avice held of the lord the King, in chief, in the co. of Southampton, the messuage and lands known as Wode-house by service of wardeing in Chute Forest, and forty-two acres of assart therein of the castle of Carisbrooke."[5]

Sir John married Roesia, daughter of Sir John Cormeilles, of Thruxton, co. Hants, having issue, with other children, a son and heir, named Bartholomew. (Baker[6] gives the wife's name as Petronilla, but quotes no authority for the statement.) Henceforward, Thruxton, situated on the mainland, becomes the chief residence of the De Insula family. "John de Insula Vecta—or Lisle—of the Isle of Wight, was summoned, 8 Edward III (1335), by writ of 'quo warranto,' to show his right to view of frankpledge in his manor of Walleton. When the privilege not having been claimed at the last iter, he gave the King ½ mark for liberty to claim and pleaded prescription. It appearing, however, that he punished offenders against the assize of bread and beer by amercements, instead of the legal punishment of pillory and tumbril, the view was taken into the Kings' hands, but restored again for a fine

[1] *Cal. Pat. R.*, Edw. III, 1327—1330.
[2] *Ibid.*, 1330—1334.
[3] *Rotul. Origin.*, vol. ii, Edw. III, 1327—1330.
[4] *Cal. Pat. R.*, Edw. III, 1327—1330.
[5] W. & W., *Hampshire*, vol. ii, p. 218.
[6] *Hist. of Northampton*, p. 706.

of ½ mark. He died seised of this manor, held of the Earl of Lancaster and Leicester, the paramount lord."[1]

The hundred of Walton is said to have belonged to the Lisles. Sir John's grandson would appear to have alienated it, since the estate is not found included in the inquisition taken—9 Henry IV.—after his death.

Sir John died 5 Edward III (1332), the writ "*ad diem clausit*" being dated "xx Aug., 5 Edward III :—

"Mandatum est Will'o Trussel, escheator, etc., quod capiat in manum Regis omnes terras et tenementa que fuerint Joh'is de Insula, defuncti."[2]

It was found by inquisition[3] that he died seised of the manor of Bonchurch :—

"*Joh'es de Insula*"—Bonchurch maner'—Appelderford maner'—(*inter alia*).

A fuller reference is given in another return :—

"Bonechurche—The manor (extent given) held of the King . . . . by service of finding a man as aforesaid (a horseman) at his own charges for the defence of the Isle of Wight, in time of war."[4]

A.D. 1332–1345.—Sir Bartholomew de Insula, Knight, son and heir, was next in succession and aged 23 years when his father died. He did homage for the estates September 12th, the particulars being furnished on a Close Roll—

1331. Sept. 12. "To William Trussel, escheator etc. Order to deliver to Bartholomew de Insula, son of John de Insula, and to Elizabeth, his wife, the manor, messuage land and bailiwick specified below, and the issues received thence, and not to intermeddle with other lands that John held of others, restoring the issues thereof, as the King learns by inquisition, etc. that John at his death held no lands of the King in chief in his demesne as of fee but that he held a messuage and 30 acres of land in Wodehous, with the bailiwick of the forestry of the forest of Chute, and the manors of Woditon, Bonechurche and Appeldelford, for life, of the gift of William, parson of the church of Bonechurche, by fine levied in the King's Court, with remainder to Bartholomew and Elizabeth and the heirs of their two bodies, and that the messuage land and bailiwick are held of the King in chief by service of keeping the said forest of Chute, and that the manors of Wodyton, Bonechurche and Appeldelford, are held of the King in chief as of the honour of Caresbrok, in the King's hands, by the service of finding three horsemen, one for each manor, at John's cost, for the defence of the Isle of Wight in time of war—that he held on the said day divers other lands . . . . that Bartholomew is his next heir and is of full age, and the King has taken Bartholomew's homage for the manors."[5]

On October 15th, 1331, an order to Sir John Ticheburn follows :—

"to deliver the manors etc. aforesaid, which are in his custody by the King's commission, to Bartholomew and Elizabeth, together with the issues received by him thence since the death of the said John"—and after reciting the last Roll adds—"and he has now taken his homage for all the lands." . . . .

In December, three months later, the rector of Bonchurch referred to in the Roll exchanged that benefice for the chantry of St. Edmund de Wodytone, attached to the island residence of the De Insulas.

[1] *Hist. of Northampton*, p. 706.
[2] *Abbrev. Rot. Origin.*, vol. ii, p. 53.
[3] *Cal. Inq.* p. m., *sine Escaetorum*, vol. ii.
[4] *Cal. Inq.*, vol. vii, p. 261.
[5] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1330—1333.

The following notices, entered on Patent Rolls, are of interest :—

1335. Jan. 26. "Appointed to see that Knights and others are duly furnished with arms and to array them for the defence of the realm (*inter alia*) Bartholomew del Isle, John de Ticheburne, John de Ysle, of Gatecumbe."[1]

1335. June 24. "Appointment (with others) of Bartholomew de Insula, John de Roches, Robert de Popham—to levy 300 marks in the county of Southampton—Winchester excepted—for relief from 100 hobelers."[2]

1336. May 3. "Appointed, with others, to choose a certain number of hobelers in the county of Southampton. Order to supersede the exaction of £40 from the men and burgesses of Southampton." . . . .

1337. April 15. "John de Langeford, warden of Carisbrooke Castle—Bartholomew del Isle, and Theobald Russell are commanded to compel all persons in the Isle of Wight to furnish men for the defence of the Island. The King orders the sheriff to assist them."[3]

The Close Rolls contain the following order :—

1337. Sept. 4. "To Bartholomew del Insula and his fellows, keepers of the maritime land in co. Southampton. Order to cause the common signs by fire upon the hills and elsewhere in the county to be made without delay and diligently guarded by four, five, or six men at arms, or armed men, so that the men of those parts may be warned in time of a hostile attack. . . . . The King wishes all men, both servants of men of religion and others, men at arms and armed and able bodied men to be compelled to repel enemies if they invade the realm."[4]

On the Patent Rolls is entered under date—

1338. July 6. "In the array of the men of the county for defence against invasions, the overseers for Southampton are Bartholomew del Isle, John de Hampton, Robert de Popham, and Robert de Hoo."[5]

1339. Feb. 12. "Protection and clause volumus, until Midsummer, for John de Langeford, constable of the King's castle of Caresbrok, who, with others, has been appointed to the custody of the Isle of Wight, and ordered to make continual stay there to defend it against attacks by foreign enemies who are trying to effect a landing in the island. The like to the following—Theobald Russel and Bartholomew de Insula."[6]

On the Close Rolls—

1339. April 15. "To the keepers of the maritime lands in co. Southampton. Order not to compel Bartholomew de Insula to find any men at arms or others for that custody in other places outside the Isle of Wight by reason of his lands at Mannesbrugg, Shepprix and Wodehouse in that county, while he is staying in that island with his men for the safe custody of the island against invasion."[7]

In June, 1339, he was a justice of Oyer and Terminer for the County. Early next year there is, on a Close Roll, the following :—

1340. Feb. 5. "To Bartholomew de Insula—Order to stay in the Isle of Wight with the men of his power, and with the King's other lieges there, for the defence of that island against hostile invasions, and to defend the island and his own lands there, knowing that the King will have worthy consideration for those who behave well in this, as although the King ordered him and other lieges of the island to prepare themselves and their men in the island where they had great possessions and to stay there for its defence, etc.,

[1] *Cal. Pat. R.*, Edw. III, 1334—1338.
[2] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1333—1338.
[3] Hardy, *Syll. Rymer's F.*
[4] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1337—1339.
[5] and [6] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 1337—1339.
[7] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1339—1341.

yet Bartholomew, as the King has learned, withdraws himself from the island with his men, to its great danger, and it is not becoming for belted knights to eloign themselves from places where deeds of war may take place, but rather to go to those places and stay there for their honour's sake."[1]

In a Roll—already quoted, giving the "Disposition of the Militia in the Isle of Wight, *temp.* Edward III, *circa* 1340, Peter de Heyno, Lord of Stenbury, had command of the Undercliff district, having the Lord of Wathe his vintener."[2]

In 1341 and 1343, Sir Bartholomew was one of the three wardens "chosen by the inhabitants to take charge of the island defences during the king's pleasure." On the 6th of July, 1341, he was appointed with Richard de Limboldeseye (and others) to serve on a "Commission of oyer and terminer touching the accounts of the money collected by the Mayor, bailiffs, and good men of the town of Southampton, pursuant to a grant to them, by Edward II, of a custom called "barbicanage," as they are said to have converted such money to their own use for the most part.[3] In a later Roll, under date 15th October, 1344, John de Insula (the relationship is not stated) is assigned to the Commission "in the place of Bartholomew de Insula, who is so feeble and infirm of mind that he cannot act."[4]

1342. May 12. "The King orders the sheriff of Hampshire and Sir Bartholomew de Insula, John de Kyngeston and Henry Romyn in the Isle of Wight to proclaim that the men of the island must be ready for its defence by a week after Trinity Sunday."[5]

On a Close Roll is the following deed relating to the estates :—

1343. "Enrolment of deed testifying that whereas Sir Bartholomew del Isle de Wyght had granted to John del Isle and Thomas del Isle, his brothers, the reversion of the manor of Shorewell, in the Isle of Wight, co. Southampton, which manor Robert Selyman holds for life of the inheritance of Bartholomew and of the release of Sir John del Isle, Bartholomew's father, by virtue of which grant Robert attorns himself to John, and John, for his fealty and by the payment of his rent, and henceforward he will be attendant upon them for the reversion of the manor."

"Witnesses—Sir John de Kyngeston, Kt., Thomas de Noreys, Thomas Haket, etc. Dated at Salisbury, on Tuesday the feast of the Annunciation, 17 Edward III."

"Memo—That Robert came into Chancery, at Salisbury, on March 26th and acknowledged the deed."[6]

A further estate deed is entered on the same Rolls :—

1343. July 26. "Enrolment of indenture made at Winchester, on Saturday after St. James, 17 Edw. III, between William le Wayte and Nicholas atte Wode, of the isle of Wight, testifying, that whereas Nicholas is bound to William in £100 . . . . William grants—that if Nicholas grant to Bartholomew del Isle a yearly rent of £20 of his lands in Wippingham, Nicholas being in possession by virtue of the enfeoffment of Bartholomew de Insula and Nicholas de Insula, his brother, then the recognisance shall be null and void—Dated as aforesaid.

Memo—that William came into chancery, at Winchester, and acknowledged the preceding deed."[7]

[1] *Cal. Cl. R.*, Edw. III, 1339—1341.
[2] W., *App.*, No. 12.
[3] *Cal. Pat. R.*, Edw. III, 1340—1343.
[4] *Ibid.*, 1343—1345.
[5] *Syll. Rymer's F.*, Hardy.
[6] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1343—1346.
[7] *Ibid.*

A further deed entered on the Rolls, under date May 1st, 1343, is an acknowledgment,—

"that Bartholomew owes to Hugh Courtenay, Earl of Devon, 2,000 marks."[1]

Sir Bartholomew married Elizabeth, daughter of Hugh Courtenay. An impression of his seal with the arms ". . . . on a chief 3 lionceaux impaling Courtenay" is given by Worsley.[2] By his marriage he had issue a son, John, and a daughter Mary, who married Sir Henry Oglander, of Nunwell, Knt. Sir Bartholomew died in August, 1345, and was buried at Thruxton. The inquisition (taken 19 Edward III) shows that he was seised of the following estates :—

19 Edward III.—"*Barth'us de Insula.*" (*inter alia*) "Chentelyng maner', Rewe maner', Bonechurche maner', Appedelford maner' ut de honore castri de Caresbroke."[3]

At his death, the son being a minor, the estates remained in charge of the widow as shown by a Close Roll, 5th October, 1345 :—

"To William de Ryngebourn, escheator, etc.—Order not to intermeddle further with the manor and lands which he took into the king's hands by reason of the death of Bartholomew de Insula, restoring the issues to Elizabeth, late his wife . . . . as the King has learned by inquisition taken by the escheator that Bartholomew at his death held no lands in his demesne, as of fee, on that island, but that he held jointly with his wife the manors of Rewe, Shentlyng, and Chelierton, in that island for themselves and their issue of the gift of John de Insula, Bartholomew's father; and the manors of Wodyton, Bridelsford, Bonechurch, and Appeldelford, with the advowsons of the churches of Bonechurche and Shorwell and the chapels of Wodyton, Bridelsford, and Appeldelford of the gift of William, parson of Bonechurche."[4]

On Rolls belonging to the same series notices are entered directed to escheators in other counties, couched in similar terms :—

"To John de Roches, co. Wilts, *in re*—the bailiwick of Chute Forest, etc."[5]

"To Thomas Cary, co. Dorset, *in re*—the manor of Neweton, in that county."[6]

"To Robert de Paveley, co. Northampton, *in re*—the manor of Walton, held of John de Kaynes by service of half a knight's fee."[7]

The notices are dated 5th October, 1345.

In the Aid of 1346, "for knighting the king's eldest son," Lady Elizabeth's name appears in the assessment[8] :—"Elizabetha que fuit uxor Barth' de Insula . . ." for the manors of Roude, Briddlesford, Shentlyng, Bathingbourne, Chillerton, and Shorwell.

In the county of Dorset, for the same Aid, "Elizabeth de Lyle" is entered for a quarter knight's fee : "Ibidem quam Johannes Cormaylles quondam tenuit."

The widow survived her husband some years. The following order appears on a Close Roll :—

[1] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1343—1346.
[2] W., *Hist. I. W.*, p. 58.
[3] *Cal. Inq. p. m.*, vol. ii.
[4 5 6 7] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1343—1346.
[8] *Cal. Inq. & Ass. re Feudal A.*

1350. Oct. 18. "To all Admirals, sheriffs, mayors, bailiffs, keepers of the passage in all ports and maritime places of the realm. Order to permit Elizabeth, late the wife of Bartholomew de Lysle, with a chaplain, a damsel, two yeomen, three grooms and five horses to cross to parts beyond the sea, as a pilgrim, etc."[1]

In 1352 a notice occurs :—

1352. April 26. "Pardon to Elizabeth, late the wife of Bartholomew de Insula of all the issues of the lands of the latter received by her from the day of his death until the lands were taken into the King's hands by reason of the nonage of the heir—By letter of the Griffoun."[2]

The following year is entered :—

1353. April 26. "To John de Kyngesdon, the King's clerk, escheator of the Isle of Wight. Order to assign dower to Elizabeth . . . . of all the lands which belonged to her husband at his death, upon her taking oath that she will not marry without the King's licence. By letter under the seal called Griffon."[3]

A.D. 1346–1371.—SIR JOHN (3) DE L'ISLE, otherwise De Lysle, Banerettus, son and heir, was aged nine when his father died. Among "proofs of age found upon the Files of the Chancery in the Tower" is the following :—

31 Edward III—"John, son and heir of Bartholomew de Insula, was 22 years of age on the feast of St. Lucy last past and was of full age on the said feast in the 30th year of the King's reign, was born at Mannesbrige and baptised on the aforesaid feast. Sutht."[4]

On coming of age he did homage for the estates :—

1357. Dec. 22. "To John de Estbury, escheator, co. Sutht'. Order not to intermeddle further with the lands which belonged to Bartholomew de Insula . . . . as John, his son and heir, has proved his age, before the escheator, the King having given the Castle of Caresbrok with the Knight's fees, etc., to Isabel his daughter to hold for life."[5]

There is a like order—*mutatis mutandis*—to the escheator, co. Northants. Soon after obtaining possession of his estates he gave an acknowledgment of a debt. The text of the deed is given *in extenso*, as it contains a reference to the "ancient manor and tithing of Holewaye," on which the modern town of Ventnor is built.

1358. October 22. Westminster. "John, son and heir, of Bartholomew del Isle, Knt. acknowledges that he owes to Thomas del Isle, of Wodyton, clerk, £200: to be levied, in default of payment, of his lands and chattels in the co. of Southampton—Enrolment of indenture made between John del Isle of the one part and Thomas del Isle, clerk, of the other part, witnessing—that whereas John has made the preceding recognisance for £200 to Thomas, to be paid St. Katherine next; Thomas grants that if John give the manor of Holeweye, in the Isle of Wight, with all its liberties and other appurtenances, with warranty to the said Thomas (the services of the bond tenants of Holeweye to Elizabeth, John's mother, and to him in the manor of Bonechurche for two days excepted and saving also pasture for them in the manor of Holeweye for ten oxen in the pasture there called Port between Hokedaye and Whitsuntide yearly), and if he grants two marks of yearly rent in his manor of Southshorewell, to hold for Thomas's life and bind himself to warrant the said manor and rent to Thomas between now and the said

[1] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1349—1354.
[2] *Cal. Pat. R.*, Edw. III, 1349—1354.
[3] *Cal. Cl. R.*, Edw. III, 1349—1354.
[4] *Dep. K. Public Rec.*, 3rd Rep., p. 203.
[5] *Cal. Cl. R.*, Edw. III, 1354—1360.

feast of St. Katherine; and if Thomas shall peaceably hold the said manor of Holeweye for life with the rent aforesaid without being impleaded, removed, or disturbed by him so as to lose parcel or all thereof, that recognisance shall lose its force. Dated Westminster, Tuesday after St. Luke 32 Edw. III." [1]

A second deed follows couched in similar terms :—

"John grants that if Thomas make a general release to Elizabeth, John's mother, late the wife of the said Bartholomew and executrix of his will, between now and St. Katherine, and if before that day Thomas make to John a confirmation of his seisin in the manor of Suthshorewell and the advowson of the church of that manor, to him and the heirs of his body so that he may not be impleaded by Thomas contrary to that confirmation; and further if when John shall take a wife and lay down that manor to take again an estate therein to himself, his wife, and the heirs of their bodies, Thomas within a quinzane after such re-enfeoffment shall make a new Confirmation to John, his wife and the heirs, etc." [2]

In the month of April, 1365, Sir John was a joint witness with Sir Adam de Rake to the payment of £40 to Sir John de Tycheburne.[3] Sir John was present in July, 1368, at the installation of Wykeham, as Bishop of Winchester.

On the 34 Edward III (1361), a list of his holdings in the Isle of Wight, and, in Hampshire, is recorded :—

"Joh'es fil' Joh'es de Insula."

Wodunton, Bridelsford, Schentling, Bonechirch, Rewe, Appeltreford, Shorewill, Celierton, Hortingeshot, Blakepan, Manesbridge, Scherprix, Rigge libera waren' Vide confirm' pat' R 2 A° 13, p. 2, m. 4. [4]

From the Issue Roll, p. 197, of Thomas de Brantingham, Bishop of Exeter, Lord High Treasurer of England 44 Edward III (1370), it appears that Sir John Lisle was engaged in the French wars of that time :—

1370. July 10. "Exemplification of the engagement of Sir Walter Fitz Walter, John de Lisle, of Wodyton, and eleven others—about to serve in France with Sir Robert Knolles." [5]

1371. July 15. "To Robert de Wonborne, one of the tellers of the receipt sent to Southampton, for payment of the seamen's wages for passage of John de Lisle, Thomas Fitz Simond and their retinue going to France—£100."

1371. Sept. 4. "To money paid by Robert de Wonborne and John Whytegod, at the town of Southampton, to divers constables, masters, and seamen, there ordered by the King and his Council, for the passage of John de Lisle, Thomas de Murreaux and Thomas Fitzsimond and their retinue to Normandy."

1372. April 1. "To Henry de Wakefield, keeper of the King's wardrobe, etc., by the hands of Sir John del Isle, Knt., for his wages in the war and a reward for twelve men at arms and twenty archers going with him in the retinue of the lord the King beyond the sea £249. 6*s*. 0*d*."

Sir John died 45 Edward III (1372), and at the inquisition following was shown seised (*inter alia*) of the Bonchurch manor.[6] He left issue

[1] *Cal. Cl. R.*, Edw. III, 1354—1360. [2] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1354—1356.
[3] Baigent, *Family of De Lymersi*, *Br. Arch. Jour.*, 1855.
[4] *Cal. Rot. Chart. et Inq. a. q. d.* 1803, p. 138 (Rec. Com.).
[5] Hardy, *Syll. Rymer's F.* [6] *Cal. Inq. p. m.*, vol. ii, 45 Edw. III.

by his wife Matilda, a son and heir. She survived her husband, dying in 1377. The inquisition was taken, 1 Richard II.

"MATILDA UXOR JOH'IS D'EL ISLE DE WOTTON."
Scharprix un' messuag' 100 acr' terr' et dimid, arrabil'. Sutht'.
Schorewell maner' et advoc' ecclie' ut de Castro de Caresbrouk."[1]

A.D. 1372–1407.—JOHN (4) DE LISLE, son and heir, was a minor when his father died. During the minority, Sir Ralph de Gorges, of Knighton, Knight, acted as guardian, and is found presenting to St. Edmund's Chantry, Wodeton, 4th May, 1373.[2] From 1374 to 1387 the presentation to the several benefices is found in the King's hands "in right of wardship of lands and heir of Sir John de Lysle, Knt., deceased." It was not until the year 1390 that the patronage reverted to John de Lysle.[3]

On a Patent Roll, 13 Richard II (1390), is entered :—

"Libertates confirmatae Johanni de Lile consanguineo et heredi Johannis filii Johannis de Insula in diversis maneriis in feodo in Suthamptoniæ prout in 34 chart' Edw. I, in Turri Londinensi."[4]

On the same Rolls the following is entered :—

1390. June 12. Westminster. "Inspeximus and Confirmation to John de Lisle, kinsman and heir of John, son of John de Insula and tenant of the lands, of a charter, dated at Westminster, 7 June, 34 Edw. I, granting to the latter free warren in his demesne lands of Wodyton, Bridelsford, Schentling, Bonecherche, Rewe, Apeltreford, Schorewelle, Celierton, Hortingeschit, Blakepanne, etc."

For 1 mark paid in the Hanaper.[5]

Several references to John de Lisle are found in the Rolls of the period :—

1396. May 13. "Commission of Peace—John Lisle, of Wodyton (and others) for the County of Southampton."[6]

1399. Dec. 18. "Commission of array to Thomas, Earl of Arundel, John Lisle, chivalier (and others) in the County of Southampton."

1400. Nov. 15. "Grant for life to the King's knight—John Lisle, of Wodyton for his good service to the King's father, deceased, and to the King, of £40 yearly from the petty custom in the port of Southampton."[7]

1401. July 21. "A letter from the King to the Privy Council, dated at his manor of Sutton, commanding that a certain number of Esquires should be summoned to this Council."[8] In the list, with other names from Southampton, is that of "Mons. Joh' Lisle."

1402. July 14. "Commission to John Lisle, chivalier, Thomas de Camoys (with others) to array all men at arms, archers and other fencible men of the county of Southampton, for the defence of the sea coast against the King's enemies, who intend invasion."[9]

1403. Sept. 7. "Commission to John, Lord of Lovell, John Lisle, chivalier (and others) to survey the state of the town of Southampton and to fortify it against the assaults of the King's enemies."[9]

[1] *Cal. Inq. p. m.*, vol. iii, 1 Ric. II.
[2] *Wyk. Reg.*, vol. i, p. 48 (H. Rec. Soc.).
[3] *Ibid.*, p. 147 (H. Rec. Soc.).
[4] *Cal. Rot. Pat. in Turri Lond.*, 13 Ric. II.
[5] *Ibid.*
[6] *Cal. Pat. R.*, Ric. II, 1391—1396.
[7] *Ibid.*, Hen. IV, 1399—1401.
[8] *Ibid.*
[9] *Ibid.*, 1401—1405.

1405. May 23. "Pardon for 40 shillings paid by John Lisle, of Wodyton, chivalier, in the hanaper, to him and Elizabeth his wife, of their trespass in acquiring . . . . from Richard Pavy a messuage, a mill, two carucates of land, etc."[1]

1405. May 28. John Lisle was appointed governor of Guernsey and proceeded to that island in the July following. A letter from Sir John de Lisle, governor of Guernsey to the Privy Council from Lymington is signed—Sr Joh'n de Lisle.[2]

1406. Dec. 9. "Commission of array to the abbot of la Quarre in the Isle of Wight, John Lisle, chivalier (and others) . . . . for defence against the French."[1]

Sir John served the office of Sheriff of Hants, in 1404. His wife's name was Elizabeth—"Sir John Lysle, Kt., and Elizabeth, his wife, licensed to hear service in their private oratory during one year."[3] He died, in 1407, and the inquisition following his death is entered :—

9 Hen. IV.—"*Joh'es Lysle, Miles.*"—

(*inter alia*) Wodehouse mess' et terr' sic vocat' per servic' custodiendi forest de Chuit ubi sunt 42 acr' assart'

South Shorewell } Maneria in Insula Vecta ut de Castro de Caresbroke.
et Appelderford }

Shentling maner'. Holewaye maner'. Thurkeleston maner', etc."[4]

Sir John Lysle was interred in the chancel of the Church of the Holy Cross, at Thruxton. Among other memorials, the fine monumental brass, placed there to his memory, is pronounced by Boutell to be "the earliest example of complete plate armour without admixture of chain." An engraving of the brass is given, by Macklin, and described by him as "a remarkably perfect example" of the Lancastrian period.[5] Though dated 1407, it is thought to have been engraved later.

An account of Sir John Lisle's brass is given in the British Museum, Additional MS. 33,498 ff. 89–97. On page 89 is a rough pencil drawing of the brass, and, on page 97, a description of the brass, in 1763, with a copy of the inscription. This page also contains a reference "to a tomb, under an arch, dividing the parson's chancel and the chancel belonging to the Lisles with two figures, namely, a man and a woman. The man is armed at all points, knight fashion, with the Lisle coat and some other quartered. The head of the man upon the tomb has no helmet. The coat of the figure has the bearing of Lisle and the Ravens quartered upon the arms and shoulders and upon the skirts, etc."

His wife survived him many years, dying in 1435, and the inquisition following her demise is entered as follows :—

13 Hen. VI, "*Elizabetha que fuit uxor Joh'is Lysle militis.*"
Null' tenuit terr', neque ten' in comitatibus Sutht'—Berks."[6]

Though stated to have held no lands in the county, the assessment entered for the Feudal Aid of 1428 states :—

Hants. "*Hundredum de Andevere.*"

"Elizabetha Lisle tenet in Throkeleston duas partes un' f' in que nuper fuerint Johannis de Cormailles."[7]

[1] *Cal. Pat. R.*, Hen. IV, 1405—1408.
[2] Nicholds, *Proc. Privy C.*, vol. i, pp. 261–276.
[3] *Wyk. Reg.*, vol. ii, p. 56, H. Rec. Soc.
[4] *Cal. Inq. p. m.*, vol. iii, p. 320, No. 49.
[5] *Brasses of England*, p. 150.
[6] *Cal. Inq. p. m.*, vol. iv, p. 158.
[7] *Inq. & Ass. re Feudal A.*, vol. ii, p. 347.

By kind permission of] [Messrs. Methuen.

Sir John Lysle, engraved c. 1425, Thruxton, Hampshire.

Other estates, in Dorset, were held by her. In the return for the Aid of 1431 occurs :—

Dorset. *" Hundredum de Tolreford."*

Cerne.

" Elizabetha nuper uxor Johannis Lysle, chivalier, de Croggeston in com' Southt.', widowe, tenet manerium de Up' Sydelyng in eodem hundredo per servicium un' parvi feodi militio." [1]

Three other entries, immediately below, on the same page, would seem to refer to her, she having re-married, and the references are interesting in connection with the later disposition of the estates made in the year 1546 :—

(*a*) " Predicta Elizabetha que fuit uxor Roberti Lovell tenet manerium de Childefrome." . . . .

(*b*) " Predicta Elizabetha Lysle nuper uxor Roberti Lovell tenet manerium de Rammesham . . . . per servicium militare."

(*c*) " Predicta Elizabetha Lysle tenet medietatem manerii de Mayden Newton in eodem Hundredo . . . ." [1]

A.D. 1407–1429. JOHN (5) DE LYSLE, son and heir, was born in 1385, and succeeded his father in February, 1407. He was Sheriff of Hants in 1413, and although his name does not occur in the printed list of Sheriffs given by Fuller and Bray, particulars of the seal used by him as sheriff are given as follows[2] :—" The seal of John Lysle, esquire, of Wodyton, in the Isle of Wight, displays a castle with a shield placed on the ground in front of it in an oblique position, the upper corner covering a portion of the castle bearing the Lisle arms, ' Or, on a chief azure three lions rampant of the first '; the field is diapered with a leafed branch, and on the back ground near the shield are the sheriff's initials, i. li. This shield is copied from an impression formed of a dark (olive-green) wax attached to a receipt, which is dated 23rd September, 1413, and, translated, reads :—

" This acknowledges the receipt of £6. 13*s*. 4*d*. from the alien priory of Andevere."

He married Margery, otherwise Margaret, daughter of John Bramshot, esquire, of Bramshot, co. Hants, and had issue by her three sons, John, George, and Edmund. He died 10 Feb., 1428-9, aged 44 years, and was buried in the parish church of St. Nicholas, at Chute, Wilts, wherein still may be seen the large slab of grey marble which covers his grave. The return made by the jurors at the inq. p.m. is entered :—

" Jo' Lysle, armiger."

" Rewe maner'. Appulderford maner'. Bonchurche maner' cum advoc' ecclesiæ, etc." [3]

A.D. 1429–1472. SIR JOHN (6) DE LISLE, son and heir, was next in possession. He took an active part in county matters, sat in the Parliament of 1433, as knight of the shire of Southampton, and was sheriff of the county in 1439. He was one of the Commissioners appointed 14th May, 1455, to raise money for the defence of Calais; among the other named members being the Bishop of Winchester and Maurice

[1] *Ing. & Ass. re Feudal A.*, vol. ii, p. 104.

[2] *Herald & Genealogist*, vol. v, p. 194, Nichols.

[3] *Cal. Inq. p. m.*, 7 Hen. VI, vol. iv.

Berkeley. The King sent a letter dated 5th December, 1455, to the Earl of Arundel and other lords, knights, and esquires. A copy of this letter was sent to John Lysle, the first of the knights named. The letter states[1] " that a certain rising is about to take place in Devonshire, that the Duke of York is proceeding thither, that it is thought that oure said entirely beloved cosin Duke of York be notably accompanied and have assistance of worshipfull lords and othre persons by whoos help, strength and avises, he may settle downe the misgovernaunts and rebuke theim that would bere up the contrary. Wherefore we, considering that ye be a lord of this oure lande and of oure blode, knowing by experience that ye tendirely desire the welfare of us and the restfull reule of oure peple have ordeyned and made you oon of our Commissioners desireing you hertly nevytheless charging you that ye redy yourself to accompany & assiste oure said right entirely welbeloved cosin . . . ."

Sir John de Lesley, banneret (Henry VI roll), bore for his arms :—

" Or, on a chief azure 3 lyonceaux rampant of the first."[2]

On Sept. 26th, 1467, and in Feb., 1468, " John Lysle, Knight," is named (with others) in the Commission of array for defence in the Isle of Wight.[3]

He married Anne, daughter and heir of John Botreux, and had issue a son Nicholas, who succeeded to the estates, and two daughters—Agnes, who married John Philpot, of Compton, Hants, and Margery, who married John Rogers, of Frefolk, in the same county.

Sir John died 1472, and was shown by inquisition seised of the manors :—

11 Edward IV.—" *Joh'es Lisle, Miles.*"

(*inter alia*) Shenkeling maner'. Rewe, Bonchurche, Appuldurford, Blackpan, Underclyffe," etc.[4]

A.D. 1472–1505. Sir Nicholas Lisle, Knight, son and heir, of Thruxton, married Elizabeth, daughter of John Rodgers. He died in the year 1505, leaving issue a son and heir, also a daughter, Eleanora, who married John Kingston, esquire, co. Berks.

A.D. 1505–1524. Sir John (7) de Lisle, Knight, son and heir, succeeded and served as High Sheriff 1507 and 1518. " In May, 1520, when the Emperor Charles V arrived suddenly in the harbour of Hithe, Sir John Lisle was sent by Henry VIII to meet him and conduct him in state to Canterbury, where the two sovereigns met. Sir John Lisle then accompanied King Henry to France, where he entered the lists of the celebrated tournaments of the field of the Cloth of Gold as one of the twenty-one knights chosen to represent on that occasion the chivalry of England."[5]

[1] *Proc. of the Privy Council*, vol. vi, Nicholds.
[2] *Some Feudal Coats of Arms*, p. 155, J. Foster.
[3] *Cal. Pat. R.*, Edw. IV—Hen. VI, 1467—1477.
[4] *Calend. Inq. p.m.*, vol. iv, 11 Edw. IV (1472).
[5] Burke's *Landed Gentry*, 4th Ed., Philip de Lisle, of Garendon Park and Grace Dieu Manor.

Sir John married Joan, the daughter and heiress of Sir John Courtenay, Knight Banneret, and died 1524, without issue. Being the last male of the direct line, the elder branch of the Lisle's became extinct. In an inquisition taken in the latter part of the 15th century the possessions of Sir John in Hampshire and Wiltshire were :—The bailiwick of Chute Forest, the manors of Chute, Holt, Wodyton, Shenkeling, Shorewell, Rewe, Bonchurche, Appuldinford, Blackpan, Briddelsford, Mottestone, Underclyffe, Bathingborne, Hartingshott, Chalcroft, Rowde, and Mannesbridge; messuages at Bradford, Wodehouse, Charleton, Kinge's Enham, and Knight's Enham; the manor and advowson of Throkeston, and the advowson of Chumyton.[1]

On the death of Sir John (7) de Lisle, his sister Eleanor became heiress to the estates, and married John Kingston, of Berks, esquire, afterwards knighted. The issue of the marriage was two sons, who died childless, and an only daughter Mary, who later married her kinsman, Sir Thomas Lisle. The sisters of Sir Nicholas eventually succeeded as heirs general to the entailed estates of the last Sir John Lisle. Agnes had married John Philpot, of Compton, Hants, having the Thruxton estates. Her sister Margery took John Rogers, 'the younger,' of Frefolk, in the same county, for her husband. The issue of the latter marriage was two daughters—Elizabeth, who married Richard Andrews, of Frefolk, and Anne, who had for her first husband John Brocas, of Beaurepaire. He died in 1492, and she married St. Marten. John Brocas seems to have been slack in claiming the rights of his second wife, the co-heiress of Frefolk, for the manor of Athelington, co. Dorset, which came to the two sisters as co-heirs of Christopher Rogers, was placed in the custody of Sir William and Emma Hoby—"Till Anne Brocas made her just suit and livery out of the king's hand."[2] She died on February 6th, 1517, seised of the manor of Steventon which she had in satisfaction of dower and "divers other lands in the county of Southampton, but what they are the jury know not." This was the Frefolk estate to which her daughter succeeded. By her first marriage she had issue two sons, who died young, and three daughters, co-heirs to their mother. (See Monumental Brass.) Margery Brocas, the eldest daughter, married, first Richard Copley, and, secondly, Michael Denys, of Pucklechurch, co. Gloucester. "The descendants of Margery Brocas by Michael Denys settled in the Isle of Wight and perpetuated the line, but, by a remarkable fatality, male heirs were so often denied to them that the inheritance passed by females on five different occasions. In 1829 the descendants of John Brocas and Anne Rogers were represented by two Isle of Wight ladies, named White, living at Wotton."[2] Anne Brocas had, for her first husband, Christopher Morgan, and secondly, . . . Waffer; Elizabeth the third daughter, had Nicholas Samborne, of Mapledurham, co. Oxon, and, on his demise, in 1506, took for her second husband William Yong.[2]

[1] *Inq.*, April 24th, 9 Hen. VIII (1517).

[2] *The Family of Brocas of Beaurepaire*, etc., p. 168, M. Burrows.

The eldest sons of Margery and Elizabeth divided the estates. The indenture bears date 25th November, 1546, and commences :—

Thomas Denys, esquire, one of the cousins and heirs to dame Mary Lysle, deceased, that is to say, son and heir to Margery Denys one of the daughters and heirs to Ann Brocas, daughter and sole heir to Margery Rogers, one of the daughters and heirs to Sir John Lysle, Knight, father to Sir Nicholas Lysle, Knight, father to Elyus, mother to the said dame Mary Lysle, of the one part and John Samborne, esquire, one other of the cousins and heirs of the said dame Mary Lysle, that is to say son and heir to Elizabeth Samborne, one other of the daughters and heirs to the said Ann Brocas, of the other part . . . .

John Samborne took for his share the manors of Upsydling, Maiden-Newton, and Hemsworth, co. Dorset; Timsbury, co. Somerset; and Bathingbourne, in the Isle of Wight, with the advowsons of the first four and half a moiety of Bonchurch cum Shenklyng. Thomas Denys had the manors of South Shorwell, Shenklyng, Rewe, and Bonchurch, also Hartingshott and Blakepanne with a half moiety of the advowson of Bonchurch cum Shenklynge.

John Samborne presented to the Bonchurch living in 1568, and Michael Denys in 1570.

W. Berry, p 193, gives a pedigree "of the Insulas; of Lesley; Rogers, of Freefolke; Brokas; Denys, of Pucklechurch, co. Glos.; and Pophams," to 1829.

In the *Hampshire Genealogies*, pp. 173–6, a pedigree of the De Insula family is given, but so full of errors that it is now of interest only as showing the carelessness sometimes bestowed in building up family trees.

Banks' *Baronia Anglica Concentrata*, p. 282, also gives "a pedigree of the De Insulas, of Wodeton, from John de Insula, baron. ob. 32 Edw. I, to Mary, who married Sir Thomas Lisle."

A PEDIGREE OF THE "DE INSULA" FAMILY.

LISLE ARMS.—*Or, on a chief azure three lyoncelles rampant of the first.*

- Jordan de Insula, probably dead 1155-6. ∓ Hawise.
  - Hugo, of Shorwell.
  - Geoffrey de Insula, of Wodyton, born probably by or before 1110, living in 1156, and perhaps in 1184. ∓ . . . .
    - Walter de Insula, of Wodyton, of age, 1177-84, probably born by or before 1163, ob. 1221. ∓ . . . .
      - Geoffrey (II) de Insula, of Wodyton, ob. 1252. ∓ Hawise.
        - William de Insula, Kt., ob. 1272. ∓ . . . .
          - Sir John (I) de Insula, Kt., ob. 1304 (*Inq. p. m.*, 32 Edw. I). ∓ Nicola, dr. of Michael de Columbars.
            - Sir John (II) de Insula, Kt., ob. 1332 (*Inq. p. m.*, 5 Edw. III). ∓ Roesia, dr. and h. of Sir John de Cormeilles, of Thruxton, co. Hants.
              - Sir Bartholomew de Lisle, Kt., of Thruxton, co. Hants, ob. 1345 (*Inq. p. m.*, 19 Edw. III). ∓ Elizabeth, dr. of Hugh de Courteney, E. of Devon, ob. 1346 (*Inq. p. m.*, 19 Edw. III).
                - Sir John (III) de Lisle, Kt., of Thruxton, Kt., ob. 1371 (*Inq. p. m.*, 45 Edw. III). ∓ Matilda, ob. 1379 (*Inq. p. m.* 2 Rich. II).
                - Sir John (IV) de Lisle, Kt., ob. 1407-8 (*Inq. p. m.*, 9 Hen. IV). ∓ Elizabeth, ob. 1435 (*Inq. p. m.*, 13 Hen. VI).
                - John (V) de Lisle, Armiger, ob. 1429 (*Inq. p. m.*, 7 Hen. VI). ∓ Margaret, dr. of John Bramshot, co. Hants.
                - Sir John (VI) de Lisle, Kt., ob. 1472 (*Inq. p. m.*, 11 Edw. IV). ∓ Anne, dr. of John Botreux, Esq.
                - Edmund de Lisle.
                - George de Lisle.
                - Sir Nicholas Lisle, Kt., ob. 1505. ∓ Elizabeth, dr. of John Rogers.
                - Margery Lisle ∓ John Rogers, of Frefolk, Esq. → Had issue.
                - Agnes Lisle = John Philpot, of Compton, Esq.
                - Sir John (VII) de Lisle Kt., ob. 1524. ∓ Joan, dr. and h. of Sir John Courtenay. → No direct male issue.
                - Eleanora Lisle ∓ John Kingston, Esq., of Berks.
                - John Kingston
                - Nicholas Kingston
                - Mary Kingston, ob. 1529 = Sir Thomas Lisle (pres'd. to liv.
              - other children.
            - other children.
          - Jordan de Insula.
          - John de Insula.
          - Walter de Insula, living, a Kt. 1256, probably dead 1263. ∓ Matilda le Estur, of Gatcombe. → *a quo* Lisle's of Gatcombe.
        - Jordan de Insula, living 1263. = Emma, ob. 1253, (*Inq. p. m.*)
        - dr. = William de Braybeuf, Sheriff co. Suth'ton 1282, ob. 1284.
      - William de Insula, living between 1156-62, as son of Geoffrey.
      - Jordan de Insula, of age 1177-84, and so born 1156-63.

Chapter IV.

THE PARISH OF BONCHURCH.

(*Continued.*)

OF THE "DENYS" FAMILY.

The manor of Bonchurch remained vested in the Denys family for more than a century, *viz.*, from 1546 to 1668.

Michael Denys, the first member resident in the island, was a scion of the Denys', of Syston Court, and of Pucklechurch, Gloucestershire. He married Margery, eldest daughter and co-heir of John Brocas, of Beaurepaire co. Hants, widow of Richard Copley, and had issue a son and heir,

Thomas Denys, who, in conjunction with John Samborne, as previously stated, divided the Lisle estates, in 1546, taking the manor of Bonchurch with half the advowson as part share of the property. He died, leaving a son, Michael Denys, of Bonchurch and Shanklin, who married a Mrs. Chatfield. This son died in February, 1575, and was succeeded by his son Thomas Denys, or Dennys. In conjunction with fifteen other islanders he signed, in 1588, a spirited remonstrance addressed to the Lords of the Council, entitled :—

"Demaunds by the Gentlemene of the Isle of Wight for Reformation of a certain absolute Government latelye assumede by the Captayne there, tendinge to the Subvertione of the Lawe, and to the takinge awaye of the naturall Fredome of the Inhabitants there."[1]

In November of that year (1588) Mr. Denys, with eight other island residents, sent a letter to Sir George Carey, governor of the island, protesting against the imprisonment of Mr. Robert Dyllington (of Knighton) on a charge that "he principallie sollicited the articulating for the Liberties of the Island, and caused Mutinie in a dangerous Tyme. . . ."[2]

He married Maria (otherwise called Marianne), daughter of Mr. Germyn Richards, of Yaverland. Dying in 1606, he was buried in Brading Church as recorded in the register :—"Thomas Denisse, esquire, a worthy gentleman." He left, with other issue, a son,

Edward Dennys, whose name is given in "A Noate of the Freeholders in the Isle of Wight, 3 Februarii anno 1606." A copy of the note was presented, by command, to King James. In 1625 "Sir" Edward Dennys was appointed, with Sir John Oglander, by John, Lord

[1] Albin's *Hist. I. W.*, p. 195. [2] *Ibid.*, p. 204.

Conway, to govern the island under him. The several records referring to this period of the island history are interesting :—

1625. June. "Philip Fleminge [to Secretary Conway, as Captain of the Isle of Wight]. The Castles of the Isle of Wight are to be repaired, especially Sandown Castle, which if it be not speedily looked into, much of it will fall into the sea."

"The King's woods are like to be spoiled by the poorest inhabitants, there being no officer at present. There is no officer to execute writs and warrants proceeding out of the Courts of Justice. . . ."[1]

A later report was issued as follows :—

1625. Nov. 5. "Sir Edward Denys and Sir John Oglander, Deputy Lieutenants of the Isle of Wight, to Secretary Conway.—According to your instructions we have sent you all the names of those knights, gentlemen, and others within our island who are anyway fitting to lend His Majesty money together with the sums according to their worths and abilities."[2]

A reference to the original State paper at the Record Office furnishes the names of islanders who contributed at that time :—

	£.
Sir John Meuxe, of Kingston, Knt.	20
,, William Lisle, of Wootton, Knt.	20
,, John Dingley, of Woolverton, Knt.	20
Robert Dillington, of Knighton, esq.	20
John Worseley, of Gatcombe, esq.	20
Mr. William White, of Shaflett	20
,, Daniel Urrey, of Aughton	20
,, William Broad, of Newport	20
,, Stephen Marsh, of Newport	20
,, Peter Garde, of Godshill	20
,, Robert Walterton, of Nuport	10
,, Philip Fleminge, of Nuport	10
,, Daniell Searle, of Caresbrook	10
,, Edmond Reignolds, of Brixton	10
,, John Fitchett, of Bradinge	10
,, William Strapor, of Bradinge	10
Anthonie Ersfield, of Cowes, esq.	20

A report early in the following year appears to relate to the foregoing :—

1626. March 13. Newport. "Sir Edward Denys, Collector of Common Privy Seals in the island of Wight, to the Council. Had received £190, of which he had disbursed £150 for sick and lame soldiers landed on that island and the remainder would not be sufficient to supply the further necessities. Incloses—Note of the Privy Seal sent into the Isle of Wight showing who had paid and who had not."[3]

From the original State Paper :—

"Paid to me—the Collector,—

	£.
Sir John Meux	20
Sir William Lisle	20
Sir John Dingley	20
Mr. William White	20
Mr. William Broade	20
Mr. John Worseley	20

(and others)

[1] *Cal. S. P. Dom. Ser.*, 1625—1649, p. 29. [2] *Ibid.*
[3] *Cal. S. P. Dom. Ser.*, 1625-49.

In the autumn a further "Report" was issued by:—

1626. Aug. 10. Lord Treasurer Marlborough, Viscount Grandison, and Sir Richard Weston, Chancellor of the Exchequer, concerning the defences of the island, etc.[1]

In this report reference is made to the decayed condition of Sandham Castle on the south side of the island. It is suggested that £1,500 imprest should be delivered to Sir John Leigh, Sir Edward Denys, and Sir John Oglander, deputy lieutenants of the island, for repairs, especially to Sandham Castle. Reference is further made to a grant for enlarging the jurisdiction of the Knighten Court.

In 1628 "a petition was presented by fourteen ministers resident in the Isle of Wight to Secretary Conway," stating that:—

"Freedom from billeting soldiers is an immunity enjoyed by all the ministers of the land, except those of the Isle of Wight. With the concurrence of Sir Edward Denys, one of his lieutenants, they humbly apply to be disburdened by this particular, except, in case of alarm, the mainland be called in to their succour."[2]

In this year (1628), "An Order of rank and precedence, etc.," was issued by Lord Conway, Sir Edward Denys, and Sir John Oglander, being appointed his lieutenants, "to take the command of the two divisions into which the Island was divided whenever they shall appeare in the field, and in all meetings upon martiall businesses."

"Sir Edward Dennis and Sir John Oglander were elected members of Parliament for Yarmouth, Isle of Wight."

In September, 1638, Sir Edward had charge of "a watch with two men at Lanes, and a ward at Roxall down."

In his memoirs Sir John Oglander writes:—"I wase often with Sir Edward Dennys at ye Counsell boorde," adding—"the honest conceyt that I had to doo my countery good, browght mee most mallice and ill-will. Sir Edward Dennies and myselve tooke upon us ye business, wherein although wee dealte fayrely and honestlye, yet wee gayned mutch ill-will. Bee warned by example not to medle with ungrateful p'sons."[3]

Sir Edward married Mary, the daughter of Edward Dawley, of Winchester—"his lady, a very handsome younge woman," who died in the year 1612 as entered in the Brading Church register—"Marie a good and fayer ladye"—"she lyeth in ye lower parte of ye midle chawncell." No trace of any stone can now be found. Several children were the issue of the marriage. "A first born son and heir" died, an infant, in 1609.

Edward Dennys, son and heir, aged 10, in 1623, was next in possession of the estates. Mr. Dennys appears to have taken an active part in the Civil wars. He married Hester (whose surname does not appear). Her burial, in 1650, is entered in the Brading Church register.

[1] *Cal. S. P. Dom. Ser.*, 1625–49, p. 147. [2] *Ibid.*
[3] Ogl., *Mem.*, p. 9.

The following excerpt is from the "Calendar of State Papers" "8 June, 1649:—"

Edward Dennis, West Court, Shorwell Parish. Philip & Stephen March, Newport. Richard, Thomas, & John Worsley	All of the Isle of Wight. Delinquents.

"Information that Dennis with others of that Isle, went to Oxford in 1642, it then being the King's garrison, and there remained until his wife and a friend got him to come home. That when the parliament sat at Oxford, one of his company was made one of them, and sat there; that when he returned to the Isle of Wight, Col. Kearne, then Governor, went to his house and asked what was the best news at Oxford, to which he replied—'None but good, and, that Sir John Meuxes and others there, were all well'; and Dennis and Col. Kearne passed the night in drinking."

"That Stephen March took his father's horse, and went to the King's army, and continued there 12 weeks; and that when he came back he was put in prison, and afterwards took the covenant, and was released, but never sequestered."

"That Phil. March also went to Oxford, then a garrison for the King."

"That Rich. Worsley went into the King's army, and continued there 3 years, and his brother Thomas went with him, as also John Worsley."

"15 June, 1649. The county commissioners to seize and secure their estate."

"20 June. The county commissioners to take examinations against them, and send them up."

"2 November, 1649. The Worsleys and Marches summoned to appear and answer to the charge of delinquency."

"2 Nov. Dennis is to appear and show cause why his estate should not be disposed of for the benefit of the State."

"14 Dec., 1649. Information that Dennis was a quarter of a year at Oxford, and on his return, was carried prisoner to Portsmouth by command of the governor of the garrison."

"14 Decr. Order that he have a copy of the charge and have leave to examine witnesses."

"7 June, 1650. The Marches and Worsleys summoned to show cause why their goods and estates should not be seised and sequestered for their delinquency and sold for the use of the State."

"14 Augt., 1650. The estates of the three Worsleys to be sequestered unless they show cause to the contrary in 14 days."

"21 March, 1651. Armiger Warner petitions for one-fifth of £196. 6*s*. 8*d*., paid in by the Marches on their composition at Goldsmiths Hall. Had several journeys to the Isle of Wight to prove their delinquency."

"21 March. Order for payment to him of £39. 5s. 4d. as discoverer."[1]

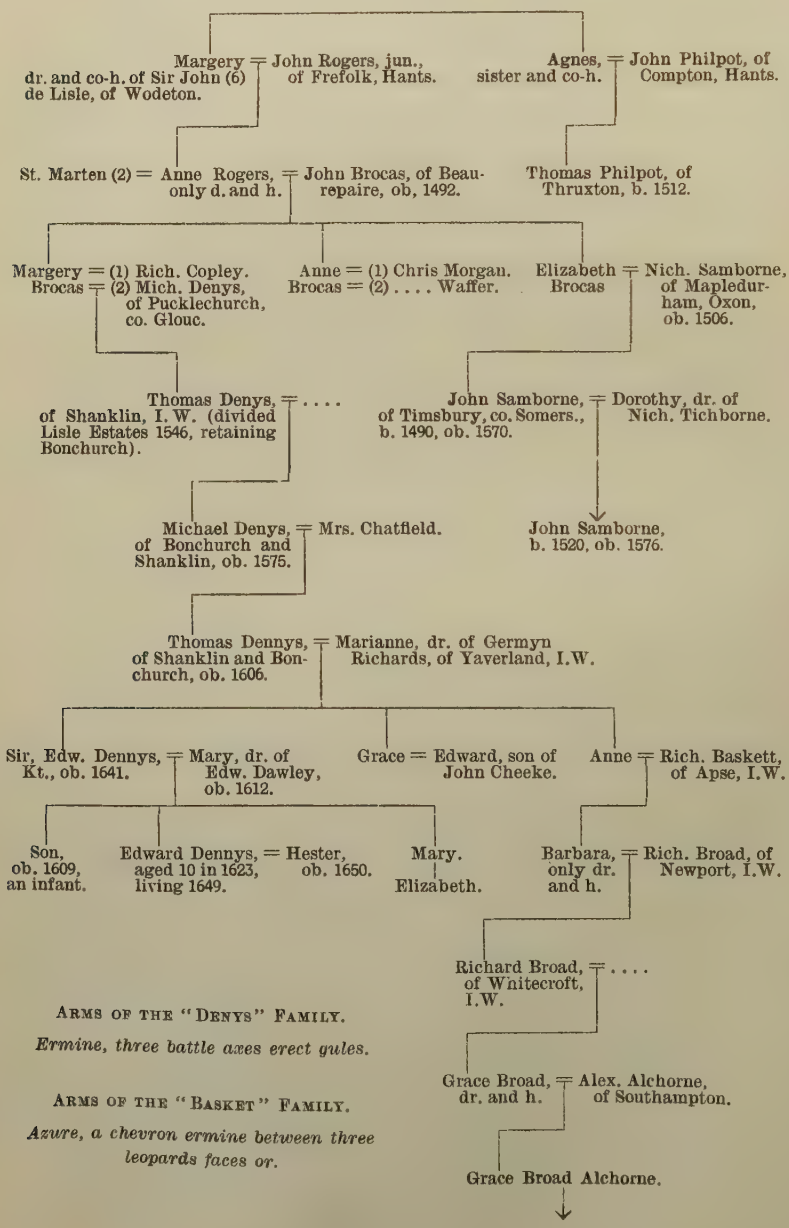
The connection of the Dennys family with the Bonchurch manor came to an end in an only daughter Anne, heiress of Thomas Dennys, who married Richard Baskett, of Apse, Isle of Wight.

A reference to the Basket family occurs in the *Oglander Memoirs*:—

"Mr. Baskett came into owre Island in Henry ye 8th reyne, beinge a younger brother of an ancient family in Dorsetshyre. Rychard, ye fathor of

[1] *Cal. S. P. Dom. Ser. Proc. of Comee. for advancg. money.*

A SCHEME SHOWING THE CONNECTION OF THE "LISLE," "DENYS," AND "SAMBORNE" FAMILIES WITH THE MANOR OF BONCHURCH.



ARMS OF THE "DENYS" FAMILY.

Ermine, three battle axes erect gules.

ARMS OF THE "BASKET" FAMILY.

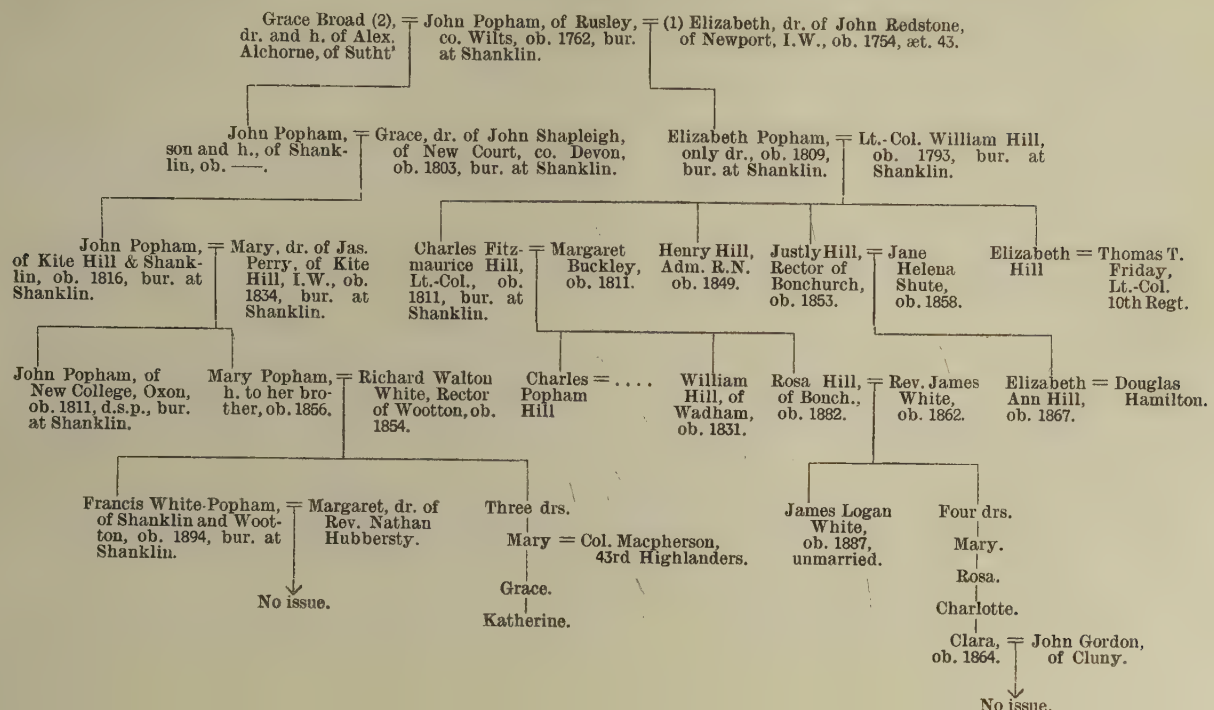
Azure, a chevron ermine between three leopards faces or.

Second Monumental Brass of John Brocas; his wives, Anne Langford on Dexter, Anne Rogers on sinister, side, with their respective children: ob. 1492.

From a rubbing by Miss Chute.

"The Family of Brocas of Beaurepaire," etc.—Montagu Burrows.

A SCHEME SHOWING THE RELATION OF THE "POPHAM" AND "HILL" FAMILIES WITH THE BONCHURCH MANOR.



this Rychard nowe livinge, was a proper honest, active gentleman, etc. His first wyfe wase ye dawghtor of Mr. Thomas Dennys, by whom he had one dawghtor; first maryed to Rychard, the sonn of William Broad of Newport; her seconde howsband wase Barnabye ye 3rd sonn of Mr. Barnabye Leygh, of Northcoort." A further allusion is to the effect that Mr. Richard Baskett was one of those present "at owre ordinarie in ye 7th yere of Kinge James, his reygne."[1]

Hutchins gives a pedigree of "Baskett of Dewlish."[2]

The issue of the alliance was an only daughter Barbara, who married Richard, son of William Broad, of Newport, Isle of Wight. A son and heir, Richard, of Whitecroft, was born, leaving at his demise an only daughter, Grace, heiress to his estates, and the representative of the elder branch of the de Lisle and Denys families. She married Alexander Alchorne, of Southampton (sheriff 1681, mayor 1686), buried in Winchester Cathedral. The issue of the marriage was also an only daughter, Grace Broad Alchorne, who became the second wife of John Popham.

For the descent of the Lisle-Dennys estates see page 76.

The estates in 1812 became vested in Mary Popham as the heiress of her brother. She married the Rev. Walton White, of Wootton, having issue with other children, a son, Francis White, and he, taking the name of Popham in accordance with his grandfather's will, inherited the Shanklin and Wootton estates.

Mr. Popham's first wife was Elizabeth, daughter of John Redstone, of Newport, Isle of Wight. By her he had issue an only daughter, Elizabeth, who married Lieut.-Colonel William Hill. The Ventnor and Steephill properties are found later in the possession of the Hill family, descendants of this alliance.

OF THE PARISH OF BONCHURCH.

There is no evidence forthcoming as to the time when the parish was first constituted, but it must have been one of the earliest formed in the island.

It has been thought by some writers that Bonchurch at one time formed part of Brading parish, but no authority is quoted, and there exists no reliable data on which to base such an opinion. On the other hand, whilst both parish churches had the right of burial, etc., Bonchurch, from its very name in Domesday—"*Bonecerce*"—seems to show that it possessed a church and was constituted a parish before even Brading itself, the church there being dedicated, *circa* 1190.

The modern parochial boundaries are co-terminous with those of the two manors, Bonchurch and Luccombe, comprised in it. In the earlier days much of the land was uncultivated. It is stated, in Domesday Book, that Luccombe had one carucate of land, *i.e.*, one hundred and twenty acres, and Bonchurch half this area. The acreage, speaking roughly, was two hundred acres. In 1842, Bonchurch was estimated to

[1] Ogl., *Mem.*, p. 73. [2] Hutchins, *Hist. co. Devon*, p. 608.

comprise 270 acres, fifty-two being arable, eighty-three meadow land, thirty-three woodland, and seventy-seven common or down land on which cows and sheep were fed, the rest being roads, waste, etc. Luccombe had an area of 267 acres; of these one hundred and thirty-six acres were arable, eighty-three meadow land, seven woodland, and thirty-three down-land.

The parish must also have been scantily peopled. The Domesday Survey states there were nine bordarii or cottage tenants and two serfs. According to modern computation, each of these families would represent some six persons—men, women, and children. It is possible that persons following other occupations, as fishermen, quarrymen, were not included. Hillier,[1] referring to this point, says:—"The attempt to form an estimate of the population of the island from the entries in Domesday Book would be a vain endeavour, as it is evident they are not intended to include even the whole population of the places to which they appertain." There is no enumeration of the monks, parochial clergy, and other description of inhabitants. Quarries are not mentioned in the survey, though the excellent quality of the stone quarried here was widely known. The stone was used for the walling and foundation, and, later on, in the restoration of the fortifications and for the repair of the bridge below Porchester Castle. In the roll of the prior of Southwick[2]—April to December, 1396–1397, *temp.* Richard II—mention is made of the purchase of stone:—"157 stones bought from Thomas le Piper at the cost of 10 shillings, and 6 shillings for their carriage from the Isle of Wight, for the foundations of the bridge underneath the castle"—from the quarries at Bonchurch and Southewight. Local stone was used in the building of Quarr Abbey, and in Edward the II's reign, when extensive repairs were carried on, the materials for the purpose, it is mentioned, were brought from the Bonchurch quarries.

Mr. Shore says that:—"On looking at the old south-east tower known as the old gaol tower at Southampton, when a good light prevails, no difficulty will arise in detecting the presence of Isle of Wight stone, *viz.*, that of the "Upper Greensand" age from near Ventnor, built into the wall with the paler blocks of the Binstead stone. A considerable quantity of the Greensand stone is contained in Southampton walls, and it has been much quarried as a local building stone."[3]

Many persons may have noticed the pyramidal monument built into the wall close to the Huish drinking fountain. This was erected by Colonel Hill, in or about 1800, as showing specimens of the stone quarried from "the Pits" when stone was supplied to the Government works at Portsmouth. In 1848, the remains of a jetty and breakwater were found on the shore below the old church, and this was probably used for the purpose of shipping the stone.

It is evident that no great change in population took place for many centuries. In March, 1428, the Commons made a grant to the King

[1] Hillier, *Hist. & Antiqt. I. W.*, part ii, p. 61.
[2] *Hist. & Antiqt. of Porchester Castle, Pro. Arch. Inst.*, 1845, p. 42.
[3] Shore, *Memorial Volume*, part i, p. 24 (H. F. C.).

and proceeded to lay a tax on parishes and towns in England, graduated in proportion to the sums at which their respective churches were taxed for ecclesiastical tenths. No parish of fewer than ten persons was to be taxed. Where the value of the church was under 10 marks, the parish was assessed at 6*s*. 8*d*. An inquisition, on oath, was taken at Winchester, and the recorded entry for the parish of Bonchurch reads: "Non sunt decem inhabitantes, domicilia tenentes, in parochiis de Bonechirch."[1]

Sir Robert Worsley[2] gives a "Parochial Table," and the number of inhabitants in 1781 is given as 86. This number had dwindled down to 69 in 1801. Thirty years later, in 1831, the population was returned as 146, the inhabited houses being 24. In 1841 the residents numbered 302, the houses 51, with six building. In 1851 the census gives 523 as the population, in 1891, 668, and in 1901, 539.

The village was shut off from the rest of the island by the high downs and the absence of good roads. Each parish was supposed to keep its own roads in repair, with the stones gathered from the fields, but this was often so imperfectly done that the roads were full of deep ruts and holes. The highways were few, and at the "back," *i.e.*, south side of the island, the roads were studded with numerous gates.

These conditions are incidentally referred to in the pages of the *Gentleman's Magazine* by a tourist visiting Bonchurch in 1753, who says:—"The roads we travelled over were either uneven rocky ground or full of loose stones; and the gates were set so thick across the highways that I never saw the like in England. I was told by an Apothecary that he got up one night and took horse, in haste, to visit a patient not two miles off and had fifteen gates to open on the way."

OF "THE LAY SUBSIDY ROLLS."

These Rolls are of local interest in recording the names of the local residents at different periods. The earliest of the series, 1 Edward III (1327), contains no reference to Bonchurch.

The Nona Rolls.[3] In the year 1339 the Commons made a grant for royal needs on account of the great expense of the French wars of Edward the 1st, of a ninth of the main income of the year. As no accurate statistics existed, it was provided that several men of character should make formal affidavit on the subject. Four of the Bonchurch parishioners were sworn as a jury to declare the value of the ninth of sheaves, wool and lambs, and were further ordered to consider the ninths in 1341 to be worth as much as or equivalent to the tithes of corn, wool and lambs in 1291. The names of the jurors summoned to the inquisition on this occasion are given in the following excerpt from the Roll.

"Parochia de Bonechurche."

"Nomina hominum ejusdem parochia Petrus atte Mere, Willelmus le Vyntener, Robertus Cordray, Simon Russel jurati, dicunt super sacramentum suum quod nona garbarum vellerum et agnorum predictae parochiae de Bonecherche valuit predicto anno xiiij° xxiiij*s*. iij*d*. Et dicunt quod nona predicta ad taxam ecclesiae prædictae attingere non potuit pro eo quod dicta

[1] Misc. Books (*Exch. Q.R.*), vol. iv, p. 342. [2] W., *App.*, No. 6.
[3] *N. Inq. in Curia Scac. Rec. Com. Publ.*, 1807.

ecclesia dotata est de uno mesuagio, uno gardino octo acris terrae, j acrae prati, iij acris pasturae et piscaria cum pertinenciis que valuit per annum xlvs. iij*d*. Et dicunt quod decimae feni et aliae minute decimae cum oblationibus et mortuaris valuit per annum xxviij*s*. x*d*."

TRANSLATION.

" Parish of Bonchurch."

" The names of the men of the said parish Peter atte Mere, William, the vyntener, Robert Cordray, Simon Russell, jurors, being sworn upon their oath say—that the ninth of sheaves, fleeces and lambs of the aforesaid parish of Bonchurch is worth in the aforesaid xivth year—xxiiij shillings and three pence. And they say that the ninth aforesaid could not amount to the tax of the church aforesaid in the aforesaid year, for this, that the aforesaid church is endowed with a house, a garden, eight acres of land, one acre of meadow-land, three acres of pasture, and a fish pond with the appurtenances worth by the year xxxxv shillings and three pence. And they say that the tithe of hay and of other small tithe with the oblations and mortuaries is worth by the year xxviij shillings and ten pence."

LAY SUBSIDY ROLL, 6 Henry VI (1428), was a tax on parishes and towns throughout England, one proviso being that " no parish of fewer than ten persons to be taxed," and Bonchurch coming under this category escaped. A third proviso consisted in a levy of six shillings and eightpence on every knight's fee. The inquisition was taken at Newport in 1431, and the return for Bonchurch was as follows :—

" Willelmus Jakeman de Bonecherche, fermor, seisitus fuit, ut de libero tenemento, dicto die Veneris, de 4ta part—unius feodi militis in Boncherche, in dicta insula."[1]

Translation.

" William Jackman, of Bonchurch, farmer, was seised of a free tenement, on the said Friday, of a fourth part of one Knight's fee in Bonchurch in the said island."

LAY SUBSIDIES, SOUTHAMPTON, $\frac{173}{243}$, 36 Henry VIII (1545).

" Indenture testifying such somes of money as hath been granted of Benevolence in the Isle of Wight, etc., towards the maintenance of the King Majesty's warres—by the persons whose names appeareth."

" Bonchurche and Chenklyne."

Elizabeth Stone	xviii*s*.
John Cokefield	xx*s*.
William Fallyck	x*s*.
William Cheslyn	x*s*.
Roger Hall (the Parson there)	viii*s*.
Total	—3li vi*s*.

It is not possible to identify the names of the local residents given here.

" LAY SUBSIDY ROLL, $\frac{174}{347}$, Sutht', granted in the last Parliament of King Henry VIII, and confirmed 2–3 Edward VI (1548–9)." The first payment was levied on the residents named in the annexed schedule.

" Bonchurch, Chenkling and Saint Larance."

John Newman	goodes	xx*l*.—x*s*. (tax)
Richard Newland	,,	xx*l*.—xii*s*. ,,
Nicholas Coleman	,,	xii*l*.—x*s*. ,,
Nicholas Rodwell	,,	x*l*.— —

The last-named apparently not taxed.

[1] *Subs. R.*, Box 173, No. 84, p. 365.

SUBSIDY ROLL, $\frac{174}{433}$, Sutht', Elizabeth, 1597. The three parishes of "Brerdynge Chenklinge and Bonechurche" are coupled together and contain the names of some forty persons—but beyond the names of Thomas Dennys and of William Newlands, it is impossible to recognise local residents.

SUBSIDY ROLL, $\frac{175}{543}$, 17 Car. I, 1642.

"Shankling and Bonchurch."

	£	s.
Edward Denys, Esq.	iiij	
Thomas Hopkins (*sic*), cler.		xiiij*s.*
David Weeles		viij*s.*
Henry Fallicke		viij*s.*
Roger Cooke		vij*s.*
John Hayden		iiij*s.*
Margaret Chestle		iiij*s.*
Willm. Markett	ij	x*s.*
Mark Markett	j	v*s.*
	Summa £x.	

The first-named on the assessment list is the lord of the manors, in all probability residing at Shanklin. The next on the list was the rector of the conjoined livings (Mr. Hopkinson). Henry Fallicke and Margaret Chestle were, probably, of Shanklin, and conjecturally the descendants of William Fallyck and William Cheslyn entered on the earlier roll of 1545. The two last-named (subsequently rendered Mackett) were Bonchurch residents, tenants or owners of the farm land.

Bonchurch parish figures in history on other occasions. When the French, under the leadership of Claude D'Annebault, raided the south coast of the island in July, 1545, the little cove, "Monks' Bay," was the site of one of the landings. The following account of the scene, from the French side, is taken from the *Memoirs of Martin du Bellay*, 1513–46, extracted by Mr. Percy G. Stone :—

In another place there landed the Seigneur de Tais, general of the foot soldiers, and with him the Baron de la Garde, commander of the galleys. Meeting with no opposition, they pressed on to reconnoitre and spy out the country, but they had not gone far before they came across some companies of footmen, who by hidden ways, and screened by the wood, had assembled in the most advantageous spots to give us battle. These, confident in their position, showed a bold front to our men and wounded some of them—among others the Seigneur de Moneins had his right hand pierced by an arrow—but the rest of our men, marching in array, made them abandon their position and retire precipitately by the way they had come, where we could only follow them in loose order and in single file. On the following day the galleys took in water. The spot they found most handy to fill the casks was a place at the foot of a hill adjoining the shore of the Island. Having arrived there, Chevalier d'Aux, a Provencal captain of the galleys raised in Normandy, not to be stopped from getting fresh water by fear lest his men should be attacked at a disadvantage while thus occupied, landed to set a guard, and, having no confidence in his convictmaster, placed him with a band of men who had followed him on leaving his galley and climbed to the top of a hill to overlook them the better. Here he fell into an ambuscade of Englishmen, who made him run so briskly that his men, having had no leisure to reconnoitre, were put to flight and deserted him. At this moment the Chevalier was struck in the knee by an arrow, which made him stumble, and then on rising he was struck on the head by a bill, which are the arms carried by the English, so

Bangalore in 1831 (from a sketch made on the spot)

severely that it beat his morion from his head and made him stumble a second time, when another blow dashed out his brains, which was a great loss to the King's service, for he was a right valiant and experienced gentleman. While some of the enemy were occupied in stripping him of his armour, the rest pursued our men, who did not recover themselves or stop till they got to the shore. On seeing this, the Admiral sent the Seigneur de Tais to rally them and make them hold out in some neighbouring dwellings so as not to throw into disorder those who were getting the water. On his arrival, a number of good and tried soldiers he had brought with him and others who formed the escort to the water carriers, formed up and marched straight at the enemy and drove them back to the hill, by which means they received no further loss."

Sir John Oglander's account (MSS. 1585–1655) differs in some particulars :—"Le Seigneur de Tais, General of the Foot, landed at Bonchurch, where there was a hot skirmish between them and us, and on either part many were slain. We had there most of the Companies of Hampshire, where Captain Fischer, being a fat gentleman and not able to make his retreat up the hill (for they put our men to rout) cried out '£100 for a horse'; but in that confusion no horse could be gotten for a kingdom. Whether he was taken prisoner (which was most likely and that he died at sea) or what became of him we could never hear. Of the French not many of quality were slain nor many hurt. The Seigneur de Moneins was shot through the right hand." . . . . "So they set sail, and coasting the Island the Knight de Aulx landed somewhere in the South parte of ye Island (it is not certainly knowne, but most likelie near Bonchurch), going ashore to take in fresh water, but was assailed by us. His company fled, and he being shot in the knee with an arrow, whereupon some country fellow (I can imagine him no better), he calling for Ransome, clove his head with his Browne Bill. He was as Brave a man as any amongst the French and Captayne of ye Galleis, for whom theyre mutch lamentation. He was buried at Bonchurch. This was the last assault our Island had."

This was possibly the raid suggested in the "Inventory of Church Goods" taken in 1553, when "one Challis dowble gilt wiche was takin away of the French men."

In 1583–4 a rate was levied by order of Sir George Carey, Captain of the Island, "in aid of the citizens of Newport, when reduced to great straits through the pestilence," and the parishes of Bonchurch and Shanklin were assessed at 6*d.* monthly in October and November.

Another rate was made in the reign of Charles the 1st "for raising ship money and subsidies." The conjoined parishes of Bonchurch and Shanklin were assessed as follows :—"Ship rates, £70; last subsidy rate, £10; present rate, £10. 10*s.*; total value of parishes per annum, £400."

Early in the last century numerous ingenious authors discovered the, till then, hidden beauties of the Undercliff. Sir Richard Worsley, writing in 1781, gives only the briefest notice. Hassell says in 1790: "The cottages that compose this place are strewed in a very picturesque manner, they are constructed of stone and thatched. The village is nearly surrounded with trees, and harmonises sweetly with the opposite cliffs."[1] Wyndham, in 1793, found "the lower parts of the small parish of Bonchurch to consist of the same stupendous fragments (of naked rocks) as are seen in other parts of the Undercliff. The cots in the village are cleanly and neat, and are sheltered in the winding vallies

[1] Hassell, *A Tour to the I. of W.*, vol. ii, p 3.

peculiar to this eccentric country, by the high eminences around them, and in which some elms of an extraordinary bulk still continue to flourish."[1]

> "A vale unrivall'd for its verdant charms,
> Or elms distinguish'd for their thousand arms."

Tomkins, in 1796, says :—"The road is pleasantly shaded with lofty trees, and at a short distance is the village of Bonchurch, which consists of straggling cottages, built with stone and thatched."

"A very few years since," writes Canon Venables, in 1860, "hardly any spot in England surpassed Bonchurch in picturesque beauty. The hand of nature had done so much to adorn, and the hand of man so little to spoil it, that it merited every encomium which successive generations of tourists lavished upon it." The few houses which had been erected were mostly low thatched cottages entirely in unison with the scenery, and the whole formed a scene of the most fairy-like loveliness." In 1828, Stirling—whose remains are interred in the old graveyard—characterises it as the "best possible earthly fairy-land, containing all the varied and fanciful beauty of enchantment with the highest degree of comfortable reality."

The only road then passing through the village was an occupation road, known as "Shepherd's Lane," the name telling its own story as suggestive of pastoral life. A stately avenue of fine old elm trees, of which a mere third now remain, fringed the path, and through the valley the shepherd drove his flock of sheep, from the down pastures to the farm steading.

A clear stream of water flowed by the roadside and disappeared in the pond :—

> "The sky-born fountain springs, a lucid wonder!
> No more to gleam and gurgle by the side
> Of *Shepherd's Lane!* but with a quiet glide
> To thread the pool; whence stealing underground,
> It runneth down to meet th' eternal tide,
> Forth welling with a soft susurrant sound
> Below the grey church-wall—anon to plunge and bound!"[2]

Gates opening into the fields were placed at intervals. One stood at the foot of the flight of steps now giving access to the upper road. A second gate was placed near the present Maple stables, and from thence the road continued onwards past St. Boniface House, along by "the nine stones" and down "Spring Hill," so called after the crystal stream then flowing by the wayside. In the other direction the road led to the Bonchurch farm yard, close by the old church, on to the beach, and by the "East End" to the landslip. "We find here," writes the Rev. William Adams, "that large portions of the cliff have fallen away, and formed a dell so broken and irregular that the ground has the appearance of having at one time been agitated by an earthquake. But Nature has only suffered the convulsion to take place, in order that afterwards she might bestow her gifts upon the favoured spot with a more

[1] *A Picture of the I. of W.*, p. 80.
[2] *The Fair Island*, Edmund Peel, canto v, f. 45.

"Shepherd's Lane" and Pond, Bonchurch, 1909.

unsparing hand. The wild and picturesque character of the landslip is now almost lost sight of in its richness and repose. The grey fragments of rocks, which lay scattered on the ground, were almost hidden by the luxuriance of the underwood, and countless wild flowers were growing beneath their shade. Below, the eye rested on a little bay formed by the gradual advance of the sea, and all was calm and peaceful, that as I watched the gentle undulations of the waters, I could fancy them to be moving to and fro with a stealthy step lest they should disturb the tranquility of the scene."

Entering where the East Dene lodge is placed, the footpath ascended the hill between high craggy rocks, issuing again opposite the present church gates, and continuing on by White Shute Cottages to Shanklin Cowleaze. Not many years ago this was a really rugged and dangerous path. Tomkins, in 1792, says: "In early days a visit to Bonchurch was a matter of adventure, owing to immense masses of rock which have fallen and obstruct the road; it is not to be travelled without much difficulty and fatigue."

The old thatched cottages, some eight in number, with their low shelving roofs and time worn walls, have disappeared; one or two only remain, and these will soon be swept away.

The cottages were very rudely constructed, the fire-places being roomy with a small seat on either side. The chimney was wide and open, sparrows frequently nesting there and tamely flying in and out of the cottages. An iron bar was fixed across the inside of the chimney, and to this a "cotterell" was fastened or hooked, and to the chain an iron pot or steamer was usually attached.

The several families living in the village, the Simmonds, Saunders, Macketts, Joblings, Dyers, etc., were all closely related by intermarriages, seldom moving away from the locality, all having the same interests, and supplementing their scanty earnings on the land, or, as fishermen--with occasional smuggling ventures, so prevalent along the south coast. Letters were at first delivered once a week. Later on an old man named Ianson came out from Newport daily, Sundays excepted, and delivered letters in the Undercliff from Niton, charging twopence as his fee and the same sum for posting them. The provisions and butchers' meat came from Godshill. The pond, that, till within a few years, added so much charm to the scene, was then a large withy bed, and had for generations supplied the materials for making the crab pots of the fishermen, who were the sole inhabitants a century ago. Mr. Hadfield, in 1800, had the willows grubbed up, converting the swamp into a fresh-water lake, renewed by the springs every twenty-four hours.

It was not until Sir James Clark extolled, in 1846, the advantages of the sheltered and salubrious climate of the Undercliff, that these primitive conditions were changed. Even before this date, Mr. Joseph Hadfield, who came to reside at St. Boniface House in 1793, and held a good deal of the land on the usual tenure of three lives, became very

strongly impressed with the climatic advantages of Bonchurch, and writes in 1828 :—" I admit that for some years there has been but little accommodation for invalids, but now they are increased to the westwards, at Niton, Ventnor, or Steephill. I have often regretted that I only hold my property here on three lives, had it been a Freehold I would have largely built on speculation, as it is, I think the family of the Hills would enter into a plan for building if encouraged, etc." The Undercliff portion of the Popham estates became vested in the Hill family, and in 1836 the estate was laid out for building. With the changed conditions following upon this, the air of rural retirement vanished and the character of the place changed. Living in these later days, one can only be thankful that all the fears, expressed in rhyme at that period were not realised :—

> "Here let no monster come with line and rule,
> No book-taught pupil of the Hardwick school,
> No pamper'd numbskull, busy to defeat
> Great nature's aim by laying out a street.
> A soul-less wretch that would from Bonchurch tear
> The splendid groves by nature planted there."

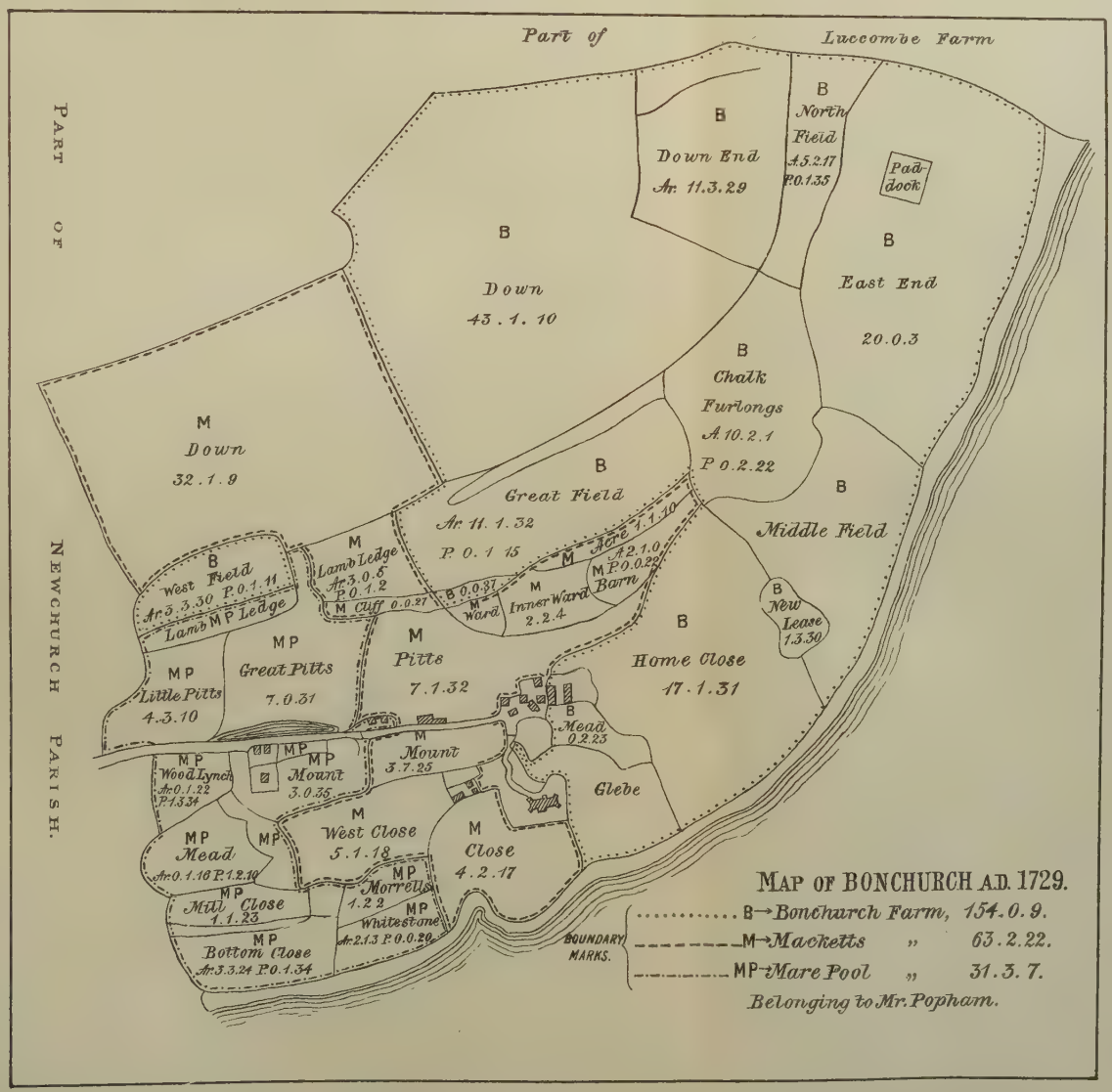
For there is still an absence of formality and uniformity which is pleasing, " the houses lie scattered about, each unlike its neighbours in sheltered nooks, backed by walls of rock, shielded from the cold winds and open to the sun, with noble views of the sea, the dash of whose waves reaches the ear only as a pleasant murmur."

The modern parish is made up of four farms. (See map.) Plots marked B. belong to Bonchurch Farm, M. to Mackett's, M.P. to Mare Pool.

(*a*) Luccombe, till very recently the most valuable, as shown by the rating contribution being fully half of the total amount levied, may be considered outside the scope of this article.

(*b*) Bonchurch, having an area of 154 acres, included the well-known landslip at East End, and extended from Luccombe path to the Old Church, and, northwards to Down End. The western third of the farm known in early days as the " Home Close," and the " Glebe," now form the East Dene Estate.

(*c*) " Mackett's " farm, comprised some 63 acres. John Coleman, in 1729, was tenant of the three farms. The oldest inhabitant will have difficulty in recognising the present outlines. The field names have been forgotten. Two of them known as " Upper " and " Inner " wards, are now covered by the Lillies, Hawthorne Dene, and the Hotel and its grounds. A large field known as " Pitts," extended westwards to the " Chimney Steps." The site is occupied by the Church and the Parsonage, Cliff Dene, Sunnyside and Pine Bank. Another of the fields, between the lower road and the sea, known as the " Mount," is comprised in the house and grounds of Undermount. Winterbourne and the Rosenheim properties occupy the site of a field known as " The Close." Further to the west was a field of some five acres called " West Close," now represented by Mountfield and the Grange.



MAP OF BONCHURCH A.D. 1729.

WARREN & SON, LTD, WINCHESTER.

(*d*) "Marepool" farm was the smallest of the four holdings, being little more than 31 acres in extent, forming the westernmost part of the parish. It did not include any of the downland. The upper portion, situated between the cliffs and the lower road, consisted of two fields "Great" and "Little Pits," now divided into two parts by the road ending at "Baalam's passage." The cliff portion is covered by Pulpit Rock, Thorncliffe, Ashcliffe, and Greycliff—the lower by the Dell, Torwood, Brookside, and a part of the pleasure grounds of Coombe Wood. Between Shepherd's lane and the sea, was a field known as "Woodlynch," now represented by a property bearing the same name. Three other fields, "Mead," "Close," and "Bottom Close," are covered by Westfield and Underrock.

Of the earlier residents and visitors to Bonchurch, a few brief remarks only are called for. It can very truly be said that few villages of the size of Bonchurch can boast of having had so many brilliant writers, etc., associated with their early history. One of the most widely known was the Rev. James White. Coming to Bonchurch in 1839, Mr. and Mrs. White first resided at Uppermount, now named Coombe Wood, moving later to Woodlynch. This house was built for Mr. White, and he continued to reside here, until in his later years, he moved to the Bonchurch Hotel. He was the author of *Landmarks of English History, The King of the Commons,* etc., and was well known as the "Fat Contributor to Punch." The late poet laureate Tennyson, before he established himself at Faringford, was a frequent visitor to Mr. White's hospitable abode. It was at Woodlynch that the laureate's hat was seized upon by some enthusiastic admirers and cut up by the young ladies as mementos. Through Mr. White's instrumentality the village was made familiar with the personal presence of Mark Lemon, of Leech, Richard Doyle, Thackeray, Carlyle, Douglas Jerrold, Justice Talfourd, and lastly, Charles Dickens.

Winterbourne, situated on a grassy slope near the "old church," derives an interest independent of the beauty of its position from the virtues of one of its earlier inhabitants. The Rev. William Adams passed some years of his life here, occupied in the conception and composition of the allegories which have made his name so widely known. This house was, some years later on, the abode of Mr. Bicknell, and here David Roberts, the artist, a relation by marriage, frequently stayed. Attracted here by his warm friendship for Mr. White, Dickens stayed at Winterbourne for seven months during the year 1849. An amusing incident is said to have occurred during his stay. Taking advantage of the natural waterfall, flowing over the cliff below the private grounds attached to the house, Dickens had a rough shower bath of a very primitive nature erected on the shore, and it was in connection with this hut that the incident occurred, of which Leech very happily drew a fancy sketch, entitled "Domestic Bliss," which later appeared in the pages of *Punch*.

Undermount stands on the site of the original Bonchurch farmstead. The structure was altered by Mr. Hadfield during his occupancy of the

farm. It was at this time a picturesque thatched cottage, having French windows opening out on to the lawn. This reached down to a meadow abutting on the glebe land facing the sea. Further alterations and enlargements were subsequently made to the house by Lady Elizabeth Pringle, who lived there for many years.

East Dene was built by a Mr. Surman, and stands, in all probability, on the site of the house and glebe farm referred to as "uno messuagio" in the inquisition held *circa* 1341. The few stately elms still left standing possibly define the boundaries of the meadow and pasture lands with which the living was endowed. Admiral Swinburne purchased the estate in 1841. At East Dene, Charles Swinburne, the poet, was born. In the purchase of the property the land on which the Rectory stands was inadvertently included by Mr. Hill in the sale. The plot of ground, however, belonged to Mrs. White, and difficulties arising, Admiral Swinburne purchased the freehold for £300 as a compromise.

Ashcliff was for sixty years, from 1842 onwards, the residence of the Sewell family, and here Miss Elizabeth Sewell, the last of the sisters, recently died. I feel I must leave to abler hands the duty of expressing a tithe of the debt of gratitude the neighbourhood at large owes to the example and the influence of this gifted family.

Two other houses, in lower Bonchurch, call for a brief notice. Seaside Cottage, the earliest house erected on the sea-front, was a favoured resort with many of the early well-known water colour artists, Clarkson-Stansfield, Rowbotham, Richardson, and later Waterlow with others.

Underrock was, for many years, the residence of Sir Lawrence Peel and of his gifted brother, Edmund Peel, author of *The Fair Island* and other poems.

OF BONCHURCH OLD CHURCH.

Though the recorded history of Bonchurch commences with the entry in the Domesday Book, the story of the church should begin at an earlier date than 1086, if any credence is to be given to the legendary account attributing the foundation of a church here to the 8th century. The tradition is to the following effect:—

"Eleven hundred years ago, a wise Anglo-Saxon priest named Winfrith, educated in the small English Benedictine convent or cell of Nutscelle, near Winchester, came first and taught the truths of Christianity to the rude fishermen who tenanted the lowlands of the Undercliff, until he set out on his pilgrimage to Rome. He was afterwards better known for his good deeds, as Boniface, eventually crowning a glorious life by a still more glorious death, as a martyr at the hands of some peasants in Friesland." The legendary account goes on to say that "in the same year certain monks from Normandy crossed over to the Island and landing at 'Monks' Bay' preached the same truths. They built, in the following year, a small and curious edifice on the woody plateau where the Old Church now stands, and dedicated it to St. Boniface in his memory. The years rolled on, a little hamlet sprang up, assumed the name of *Bonecerce*, and under that name is enrolled in Domesday Book."

There is a consensus of opinion that whilst the story is admittedly

THE OLD CHURCH, BONCHURCH. From a drawing by G. Tomkins, 1794.

legendary—as to the early foundation and dedication of the Church—there is a strong basis of fact underlying it. The occurrence of the name "*Bonecerce,*" *i.e.,* the church of St. Boniface—as that of a manor held in Saxon times would, as the Rector of St. Lawrence[1] suggests, seem to show that a church existed here at that time.

The shortening must have taken place at an early period, the final syllable "*cerce*" or "*circe*" being an early English form of the word "church,"[2] and illustrates the constant tendency to contraction found in place names. Boston, in Lincolnshire, originally St. Botolphus or Botolph's town, is a parallel instance of this contraction.

The following excerpt is taken from *Studies in Church Dedications, or England's Patron Saints* [3] :—

"There are at most four churches (one of these modern) that commemorate him under his later name of 'Boniface.' The very name derived from the saint—the well-known Island parish of Bonchurch, which is nothing but a contraction of the 'Church of Boniface,' a name that is now doubly carried on, as well by the picturesque old church (at present used only for burials) as by its stately modern successor. We do not know for certain how the connexion came about, but it is undoubtedly of very old standing." "Bonchurch was originally a chapelry in the ancient mother parish of Brading, and if we might believe the tradition that before the close of the seventh century, Brading was appropriated by Ina, King of Wessex, to the see of Winchester, we could easily account for the dedication at Bonchurch; for what more natural than that the Bishops of Winchester should commemorate the newly made saint who had been a personal friend of at least two of them, and whose name in those early days must still have been a household word in the diocese with which he had so many links? Unfortunately, the only authority for this statement is a deed of gift of King Ina's that is now generally held to be spurious. It cannot, indeed, be proved that Brading was *never* in the possession of the See of Winchester, but it must be admitted that by the reign of King Edward the Confessor, it had become private property. The date of the dedication of Bonchurch remains, therefore, uncertain, though from the way in which the name of the Saint is embodied in that of the parish, we may safely assume it to be very early."

Besides the old and new churches at Bonchurch, there are two others dedicated to this Saint, "Bunberry," or "Boneberrie," in Cheshire, and "Nursling," near Southampton, with a College at Warminster for Missionaries. Mr. Percy Stone says: "It is but natural that the building should be dedicated to one of the most celebrated of the holy men of that century, who above all was a local celebrity, and can without impropriety be called the 'Hampshire Saint.'"

Who actually built the "Old Church," or the exact date of its erection, we shall probably never know for certain. Sir John Oglander,[4] writing his memoirs during the early part of the 15th century, says :—

"This church wase erected in ye reygne of William ye Conqueror by one Johannes de Argentine, a ffrenchman, to whom William Fitz Osborne—after ye Conquest of this Island, gave to ye sayd Argentine all those landes in ye sayd p'risch, whoe for ye ease both of himselve and tennantes, Bradinge then beinge too farr, and also Nuchurch, and Shanklinge then not buylt, got itt to be made a p'risch by means of his brother's sonn Walkelyn, then Bischop of Winton" (1070—1098).

[1] Odell, *Notes on some of the smallest Churches.*
[2] Murray, *New English Dictionary.*
[3] *Francis Arnold-Foster*, ed. 1898.
[4] *Ogl. Mem.*, p. 196.

This story fixes the building of the church within definable limits. It would be unreasonable scepticism to cast doubt upon Oglander's statement; he may have found it in some documents belonging to the church, and had no reason to invent it. In alluding to the statement Mr. Percy Stone says[1]: It is possible "he found the old Saxon church unfit for worship, and so obtained a faculty to rebuild it." The difficulty is this, that the manor in Domesday Book is distinctly mentioned as belonging to William Fitz-Azor, and no documentary evidence is forthcoming to show how it could possibly be in the possession of the de Argentine family at this date. Careful research shows that no family of this name possessed land in the Island prior to the reign of King Richard, or John, 1189–1219.

Beyond its antiquity and the beauty of its surroundings the old church offers no marked architectural features.

In all probability the external structural appearance has not materially changed with the flight of centuries. As a memorial of the piety of our ancestors, its grey walls mossed with age, cannot but excite the interest of all who are moved by sweet associations. Canon Venables, a distinguished authority on Church architecture, says: "The style of building well accords with the date (1070) tradition has assigned to the foundation. All the windows are of later date, but the chancel arch and south door are rude unadorned examples of the earliest Norman."[2] "Norman architecture is rare in the Isle of Wight, nor, with the exception of the old church at Bonchurch, is there any complete building in this style."[3] The most valuable and recently published work, in which all island ecclesiastical antiquities are exhaustively dealt with, is that of Mr. Percy Stone. The following extract from it refers to the building in question:—

"The church itself is of the usual type of private chapel, a chancel separated from the nave by a simple arch, which originally, I expect, sprang from an impost on either side; but the wall here has been so knocked about and plastered over, that one can only offer this as a suggestion. The porch is comparatively modern, in my opinion, though I can trace it back one hundred years by reference to old prints; the crosses were cut in the sides after 1794, and were probably added at the same time as the ugly bell-cot which crowns the west end. The arch to the south door seems to have been patched up with voussoirs," (in architecture, vault-stones, or those that immediately form the arch of a bridge, vault, etc.) "whose different sizes and holdings point to their having been removed from elsewhere. The door itself is ancient and interesting, being formed in the usual early manner, of planks placed horizontally within, perpendicularly without, and studded with nails. The windows as usual have been replaced from time to time, and date from the 12th to the 15th century: that in the north wall of the chancel being a good specimen of an Early English single-light."[4]

With reference to the bell-cot, it is probable that some changes have taken place since the "Certificatt of the Comyssyoners, Takine 6th

[1] *Archit. Antiqt. I. W.*, p. 96. [2] Venables, *Guide I. W.*, p. 213.
[3] Boucher-James, *Letters Hist.*, vol. i, p. 122.
[4] *The Archit. Antiqt. of the I. of W.*, Percy G. Stone, vol. i, p. 11.

Interior View, circa 1840, of "Old Church."

(From a Sketch by Miss Sewell.)

Ed. VI, 1553," was issued, for one of the items reads: "To small bells hanging in the steple," and, as having some relation to it, I quote the following extract taken from the records of the local meeting of the British Archæological Society in 1855:—"Attention was given to the south-west corner where two buttresses are placed, apparently adjuncts to an angular bell turret which probably formed a very novel and picturesque feature in the building." A careful scrutiny of the overseers' accounts in the parish register shows no reference to any expenditure having been incurred by the vestry for reparative or constructive works since the year 1734.

Within there is nothing of interest beyond some mouldering remains of fresco painting in the north wall of the nave, discovered beneath the plaster by Mr. Saxby in 1847. Unfortunately no copy was made of it before it faded away. At the Archæological meeting already referred to "the frescoes on the wall excited much interest, and would appear to represent the glory of the righteous and the condemnation of the wicked." When Mr. Percy Stone inspected the building "the fresco, or more correctly speaking, the wall painting," had disappeared, together with the stained glass formerly in the windows. On the altar stands a cross of Flemish design, carved in black oak, a rare memorial said to have been brought from an old Norman Abbey (Lyra?) and placed there in the year 1820 by Mr. Surman, of the East Dene estate.

The altar table was long used for the Communion service in a private chapel belonging to the Bowdler family. The date of the table is unknown. It was given to the church in 1803, together with a service of plate for the same office, by Mr. Thomas Bowdler, then residing at St. Boniface House.

There are two marble tablets on the walls with inscriptions, in memory of Rear-Admiral Hill and his wife Caroline. The first inscription reads:—

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
HENRY HILL, ESQ.,
VICE ADMIRAL OF THE RED
OB. 1849
IN THE 78TH YEAR OF HIS AGE.

The other:—

DEDICATED
BY REAR ADMIRAL HILL
WITH THE KINDEST REGARDS
TO HIS BELOVED WIFE
CAROLINE
OB. JUNE 1835
AND RESTS IN THE VAULTS BENEATH
ALSO TO
DORA HELENA
YOUNGEST DAUGHTER
WHO DIED IN THE
EAST INDIES.

Against the south wall is affixed the Hatchment of the Hill family:—

Per pale, Dexter, Hill and Popham, quarterly; 1 and 4, *Gules, two bars ermine, in chief a lion passant guardant or;*—for Hill quartering, 2 and 3, *Argent, on a chief gules, two bucks heads, cabossed, or;*—for Popham, Sinister, per fesse in chief, Worsley and Meux, quarterly; *or, a cross gules, between four birds (falcons?) sable*—for Worsley; quartering, *paly of six or an azure, on a chief gules, three crosses patée, or*—for Meux. The base for . . . . ? *Azure? A lion rampant or.*

There is a memorial tablet affixed to the wall :—

WITHIN A VAULT IN THE YARD AT
THE WEST END OF THE CHURCH
ARE DEPOSITED THE REMAINS OF
THOMAS PRICKETT, SURGEON
OF WITHAM, IN THE CO. OF ESSEX
WHO WITH PIETY AND RESIGNATION
CLOSED A LIFE OF EXTENSIVE USEFULNESS
ON THE 6TH OF AUGUST, 1811,
AGED 30 YEARS.
HE MARRIED REBECCA, ONLY DAUGHTER OF
JOHN POOLE, OF WITHAM.

The dimensions of the church internally are forty-eight feet and a half in length, by twelve feet at its greatest breadth, and some ninety worshippers could be seated in the old-fashioned high pews. It was the custom for the men to attend the service, clad in white smocks, knee breeches, and low shoes, and occupying the seats on one side, the women being attired in red cloaks and skuttle shaped bonnets were seated opposite. A gallery—since removed—extended to the door and the village children occupied it. The small choir of three was seated in front of the gallery, and the clerk from a raised platform rang the church bell, and through a small peep-hole in the roof watched for the advent of the rector. The archdeacon robed himself in his white surplice at a small cottage near the church for the first part of the service, changing this vestment for a black gown before the sermon. Singing was allowed occasionally, sanction having been first obtained from the rector, the permission being announced by the parish clerk :—"Now lidies, the Archdeacon zays you may zing." The communion service was held four times during the year.

In December, 1848, the old church which had for so many centuries received within its walls on each succeeding Sabbath a Christian assembly, ceased to be opened for public worship, and the privileges attached to it as a Parish Church were transferred to the new building. It is now only used as a mortuary chapel. The cold, white-washed interior, as now seen, presents to the casual visitor a somewhat care-worn and neglected appearance.

Before giving a list of the rectors associated with the Old Church, it may be interesting to give the notices in the Episcopal Archives, referring to the edifice. Of the value of the benefice we have definite accounts at different dates :—

Circa 1282. In Bishop Pontissara's Register of Island Churches, mention is made of "*Ecc'lia de Bonerhureth.*"

Circa 1291. In the "*Taxatio Ecclesiasticæ,*" of Pope Nicholas IV, granting one-tenth of the Incomes of the Clergy towards defraying the expenses of an expedition to the Holy Land, the entry "Ecclesia de Bonecherche" appears and the living is assessed at c shillings.

Circa 1340. In the "*Inquisitiones Nonarum,*" the tax known as the ninth of corn, wool, and lambs granted on account of the great expenditure of the war in France, the assessment was xxiv*s.* iij*d.*

Circa 1410. In Cardinal Beaufort's valuation, the "*Ecclesia de Bonichurch*" is rated at 100 shillings.

King Henry VIII, in the 26th year of his reign (1535), required "a survey to be made throughout England and Wales in order to obtain authentic particulars relating to ecclesiastical benefices." The following is the return for Bonchurch :—

		King's Books. £ *s* *d*
"Clear yearly value, not £50	Bonchurch R. (St. Boniface) with Shanklin Chapel, Repr., 11*s.* 3*d.* ... ... John Popham, esq., 1719, Sarah Popham, widow, and Elizabeth Popham, spinster, 1766." [1]	6 15 5

The valuations in the "King's Books" are of the time of Henry VIII, while the "Clear yearly values" are those of the time of publication of the "*Liber Regis,*" by Bacon, in 1786.

The following list of "Churche Goods, etc.," is given in a return made by the "Comyssyoners the first Day of Awgust in the Sixth yere of our Souraine Lorde Edwarde, the Sixthe" (1553).

"EST MEDEN."

Bonchurche Churche.

P'cells remaynning in the custody and chardg of

- First, one cope of bleu saten of breges[2] borderid a bowts wt Redde satten of breges and spanglede wt flowers of corse silke and threde.
- Itm. a olde vestment of Redde Dornyx[3] playne wt the Albe to the same.
- Itm. one surplis and one Awter cloth of Canvas.
- Itm. To small bells hanging in the steple.
- Itm. one Chalis dowble gilt wiche was takin away of the French men.

A similar return made for the Shanklin benefice shows that it was richer in ecclesiastical vestments.

In the Chantry certificates of Colleges, etc., *temp.* Edward VI, No. 52, two items only are entered relating to the Parish of Brading, bracketed together, thus lending colour to the opinion expressed by some writers that Bonchurch, at one time, formed a part of that parish :—

[1] *Liber Regis,* Bacon.

[2] Satin from Bruges.

[3] A heavy stuff used for hangings and copes, first made at Deornic, or Tournay, in Flanders.

Brading Parish.

(43) "Awverston fre chapell founded to have continuance for ever—of whose foundacon they knowe not, etc."

Issues out of St. Boniface parsonage for lampe-lightes, and now used to the poore, growing for ever to have continuance, of whose graunt they know not, for maynteynyng of lampe-lightes there, which money—of late, hathe been emploied to the poor mens boxe.

The yerely money was x*s*."

Certificate, No. 51, contains the following :—

"The ffre chaple of Alverston founded by Th' auncesters of Sir Gylles Strangeways." . . . "The said chaple ys scytuate within the ꝑsche of Brerdynge, dystaunce one mille from the ꝑsche Churche."[1]

In former times it was a common thing to leave money or lands, sometimes called the "lampe lond," for a light to burn before the high altar.

The following extract is taken from "An Inquirie made and returned by the Jury appointed and sworne by Virtue of a Commission A.D. 1653–58 from his Highness the Lord Protector out of the High Court of Chancery concerning the uniteing of Parishes within the Isle of Wight accordinge to their best Inquirie :—

"Shankling and Bonchurch Parsonage valued att Fiftie Pounds by the yeare. The Incumbent, Mr. Wm. Hardy—in the P'esentacion of Mrs. Miller, as Guardian to Mr. Dennis. Wee conceive itt necessary to add to itt soe much of Newchurch Parish as leyeth on the South side of Wroxall Downe—being foure miles from Newchurch. The value of Titthes being about Fortye shillings by the yeare."

The suggestion was never carried into effect, probably from the ecclesiastical changes attendant upon the restoration of Charles II.

A LIST OF THE RECTORS OF BONCHURCH, "OLDE CHURCH,"

giving the names of the several Rectors which would seem to be complete from 1283, to its closing in 1848, a period of five and a half centuries, and derived principally from the Episcopal archives at Winchester, supplemented by researches in the Record office and other sources. At the time of Bishop Pontissara, *c.* 1282, the living is found in the gift of the Cistercian Abbey of Christchurch, Twyneham, an establishment of Secular Canons, having large holdings in Hampshire, in the time of the Confessor. How the living became vested in the Priory is not clear. Bonchurch may have been one of "certain churches and chapels" made over to Peter de Oglander, *temp.* Henry I, on his appointment as Dean over the canons, by Richard de Redvers, Lord of the Island, or the patronage of the church may have been transferred to the Monks on the supposition of their being the best judges as to the person most fitted to be presented to the living. The following year the advowson passed to the De Insula family.

[1] *Decanat. de Insula Vecta*, Chantry Cert., Edw. VI (1547—53).

THE OLD CHURCH, BONCHURCH, 1904.

A.D. 1283. Aug. 10th. "Ricardus de Leckford, priest, instituted on the presentation of Sir John (1) de Insula, Knight.
(Protection granted to Richard, parson of the church of Bonchurche." By testimony of Henry Tyeys).[1]

A.D. 1308. Symonis Cordray, acolite, inst. on the presentation of Sir John (2) de Insula, Knt.

(In Bishop Asserio's register,[2] mention is made of this rector having resigned in May, 1321, the chapel of Appleford, a living in the gift of the De Insula family).

A.D. 1311. William Brooke, acolite, inst. rector, on the resignation of Symon Cordray. Patron, Sir John (2) de Insula, Knt.
(An acolite is he who bears the lighted candle whilst the Gospel is in reading, or, whilst the priest consecrates the host).

A.D. 1331-2. John de Gyscard, priest, of the chantry of St. Edmund de Wodystone—instit. rector, vice William Brooke, the late rector, who exchanges. Patron, Sir Bartholomew de Insula, Knt.

(The chantry referred to was endowed by a member of the De Insula family early in the 13th century).

A.D. 1343. Hugh de Welleford, inst. rector. Presd. "by Bishop William de Edyndon, the living being lawfully vacant by lapse of time."

No date. John de Starryngtone's name occurs as rector.

A.D. 1368. Richard Eltone, priest. "William of Wykeham collated to the living vacant by the death of the late rector, John de Starryngtone."

A.D. 1380. William Bakere, capellanus, inst. rector. Patron, the King in right of wardship, etc., of infant heir."[3]
(In April, 1384, resigns on institution to Yaverlande chapel).

A.D. 1384. "dominus Richard Hewere," capellanus, inst. rector, on resignation of the late rector. Patron,—In the King's gift in right of wardship, etc.[4]

A.D. 1403-4. "dominus John Lucas," priest, inst. rector. Patron, Sir John (4) de Lysle, Knt.

No date. Simon Salet, inst. rector.

(The date of installation has not been found).

A.D. 1411. William Bursynburg, vicar of St. Peter de Veteri ponte' in the diocese of Chichester, inst. rector, who exchanges livings with Simon Salet, late rector. Patron, John (v) de Lysle.

A.D. 1466. Richard Lake, inst. rector. Patron, Sir John (vi) de Lisle, Knt.

A.D. 1473. William Hore, inst. rector on the resignation of the late rector. Patron, Sir Nicholas Lisle, Knt.

A.D. 1474. Thomas Bernys, inst. rector on the death of the late rector. Patron, the same.

A.D. 1478. John Taylor, inst. rector. Patron, the same.

A.D. 1517. Henry Botell, inst. rector. Patron, Sir John (vii) de Lisle, Knt.

(At the beginning of the 16th century the living of Shanklin was attached to the living of Bonchurch, and the arrangement continued until the year 1853, when it was again constituted a separate living).

[1] *Cal. Pat. R.*, April 4th, 1297.
[2] H. Rec. Soc.
[3] *Cal. Pat. R.*, Rich. II, 1377—1381.
[4] *Ibid.*, 1381—1385.

A.D. 1527. Roger Hall, inst. rector, " to church of " St. Bonifacii cum capella St. Blasii de Shencelyng in par' de Bradyng." Patron, Sir Thomas Lisle, Knt.

(In the Ecclesiastical visitation of Hants and the Isle of Wight held March and April, 1543, a reference is made to " Bownchurche, Rogere Hall, Rector, Robertus Mange," the latter possibly the churchwarden or curate. In the Augmentation Office accounts a notice is entered " Royal (?) Hall, incumbentis, 1549, 2 Edw. VI, capelle vocate mawdelins de Appleford ").

A.D. 1568. William Strangeways, inst. rector. Patron, John Samborne " in jure uxoris."

A.D. 1570. Anthony Reston, inst. rector, vacant by the death of the late rector. Patron, Michael Denys.

A.D. 1575. Richard Cooke, inst. rector, vacant by the death of the late rector. Patron, Thomas Denys, armiger.

(The names of both patron and rector are referred to in the Lansdowne MSS. 40, March 20th, 1583).

A.D. 1605. William Hayes, inst. rector, vacant by the death of the late rector. Patron, the same.

A.D. 1613. William Greeves, inst. rector. Patron, Edward Dennys.

A.D. 1623. Thomas Hopkinson, inst. rector. Patron, Sir Edward Dennys, Knt. (of co. Yorks, pleb. Merton College, Oxon; matric. 6th May, 1603, aged 15; B.A. from University College, 31st Oct., 1606; M.A., 1609).[1]

(In the Lay Subsidy Roll, 17 Car. I, the name of the rector is given as " Thomas Hopkins, cler.").

A.D. 1653–8. William Hardy is mentioned as rector, with Mrs. Miller as patron, " guardian to Mr. Dennys."

(When the Puritans were in power, the rector of Bonchurch was one of eight Isle of Wight clergy ejected from their livings (1653—8), but the name of the rector is not given).

A.D. 1658. Mathew Hearne, " ser " Christ Church, Oxon, matric. Nov. 1650, B.A. 1653–4, rector of Bonchurch, 1658.[2]

No date. Henry Bold mentioned as having been rector, date of collation not given.

A.D. 1672. William Torrie, inst. rector, " vacant by death of late incumbent, Henry Bold." Patron, Alexander Frasier.

A.D. 1719. William Downes, inst. rector. Patron, Sir John Popham.

(Mr. Downes was the son of Robert Downes, of Otterbourne, co. Hants, gent., Magdalen Hall, matric. 23 May, 1707, aged 16; B.A. 6 Feb. 1710–11, M.A. 1713, rector of Bonchurch, 1720, and vicar of Arreton, 1734).[3]

A.D. 1763. Cornelius Norwood, inst. rector. Patron, Elizabeth Popham.

(Of Winchester, co. Sutht., doctor. Queen's College, matric. 6 March, 1733–4, aged 19; B.A. 1737, M.A. 1741).[4]

A.D. 1766. Joseph Hewson, inst. rector. Patrons, Popham and Hill.

(Of Wigtown, Cumberland, pleb. Queen's College, matric. 20 Oct. 1756, aged 19; B.A. 1760, M.A. 1764).[5]

[1] *Al. Oxon.*, Early Ser., vol. ii, p. 744.
[2] *Ibid.*, p. 685.
[3] *Ibid.*, p. 744.
[4] *Ibid.*, vol. ii, p. 685.
[5] *Ibid.*, vol. ii, p. 653.

A.D. 1805. Justly Hill, Archdeacon, inst. rector.
(Of Bonchurch, I. of W., arm: New College, matric. 27 May, 1800, aged 17; B.A. 1805, M.A. 1808; fellow until 1820.)[1]

Archdeacon Hill was the last rector of the conjoined parishes, of which he was the officiating minister 47 years. At his death, in 1853, the two livings were again disunited. Omitting the three years' interval, 1763–6, the rectorate of Cornelius Norwood, the last three rectors officiated for the long period of 131 years.

Archdeacon Hill is buried in the chancel of Shanklin Church. On the south wall is a tablet erected to his memory:—

NEAR THIS SPOT
ARE DEPOSITED THE MORTAL REMAINS OF
THE VENBLE. JUSTLY HILL, M.A.,
ARCHDEACON AND COMMISSARY
OF BUCKINGHAM, A.D. 1825.
HE WAS RECTOR OF TINGEWICK, BUCKS,
AND ALSO OF BONCHURCH CUM SHANKLIN,
WHERE HE WAS THE RESIDENT OFFICIATING MINISTER
FOR 47 YEARS.
HE DIED ON THE 18TH OF MARCH, 1853,
AGED 72 YEARS.
Qualis eratne requiras
modo sis tu Melior!
IN THIS CHURCHYARD ALSO IS BURIED
JANE HELENA
HIS WIFE
WHO SURVIVED HIM 5 YEARS.

The following list of curates associated with the Old Church is extracted from the Parochial records:—

A.D. 1754.	Richard Holme.	A.D. 1763.	Joseph Hewson.
,, 1756.	Robert Smith.	,, ——.	Walter White.
,, 1760.	Thomas Lloyd.	,, 1814.	Cornelius Sneyd.
,, 1762.	Cæsar Pratten.		

OF THE BONCHURCH GLEBE AND TITHES, ETC.

The questions concerning the tithes, and the origin of the glebe land, in their relation to the past history of all our earlier churches, furnish several points of interest.

Before tithes were paid, or glebe given, the clergy lived upon the oblations and contributions of the people. Tithes are first expressly mentioned in the constitution of Egbert, Archbishop of York, A.D. 750. They then belonged to the common treasure of the diocese, and were distributed by the Bishop among his diocese, in such proportion as their services deserved. When churches were founded and endowed with glebe, *i.e.*, certain portions of land appropriated to the resident minister, —a portion of the tithes coming from the district was also given by the Bishop to the resident clergy. Under the Saxon laws, the tithes appear not to have been taken in the shape of tenths, as the tenth sheaf, but in land, every tenth strip being left for the church by the ploughman. The ploughing of this land was also probably performed by the common plough in return for the service rendered by the priests. In the laws of Ethelred, 978–1016, it was ordered "that every man should give his *churchshot*, and just tithe *as the plough traverses the tenth acre.*".

[1] *Al. Oxon.*, Early Ser., vol. ii, p. 661.

From the earliest period, therefore, in accordance with the law passed in the time of Egbert it was ordained that "every church shall be allotted a complete holding (mansa), and that this shall be free from all but ecclesiastical services." In fact, no church could be built without one entire manse, for house, churchyard, and garden. The rector's glebe, here as elsewhere, doubtless, consisted of strips of land intermingled with the rest, till a continuous glebe replaced the scattered fragments.

That land had been so allotted in Bonchurch is clearly shown by the following extract from the "Nona Rolls," given *in extenso* on page 81—"And they (the jurors) say that the church aforesaid is endowed with a house, a garden, eight acres of land, one of meadow, three of pasture, and a fish pond with the appurtenances, worth by the year xxxxv*s*. iii*d*."

It is further shown by the fact that in the 13th Edward III (1340), "The church supplied one bowman to the island force for general defence." This was for the glebe land, since all churches found men for the glebe, not for the tithe.

On a plan of the Undercliff estates of Mr. Popham, dated 1729, the site of the glebe land is shown as the field situated in front of the present East Dene and Winterbourne properties. On a later plan of the freehold estates of the Rev. James White, dated 1836, the plot of ground is shown intersected by the small rivulet running down to the sea front.

When the separation of the living from that of Shanklin and the appointment of a separate minister had been decided, it was proposed to build a rectory on the glebe land. Admiral Swinburne, then residing at East Dene, naturally objected to the site chosen, and, to obviate the difficulty, bought by arrangement the land fronting the residence. With part of the purchase money certain fields at the cross roads, at Gallyhorn, near the hamlet of Branston, in Newchurch parish, were purchased and added to the rectorial glebe.

On the purchase of the Winterbourne property, by Mr. Welsford, the glebe land in front was acquired also, and the proceeds invested in Consols as part endowment of the living.

On the 25th of October, 1842 an "Agreement for the Commutation of Tithes," *i.e.*, the conversion of tithes into a rent charge payable in money and chargeable on the land, for the parish, was confirmed as follows:—

> It is hereby agreed that the annual sum of Fifty three pounds by way of rent-charge shall be paid to the rector in lieu of tithes of the said parish of Bonchurch, including the tithe of the glebe land the rent charge of which is fixed at thirty shillings. The parish contains by estimation, subject to tithes, 540 acres. The quantity subject to tithes of any kind is 273 acres; Arable land 52 acres, Meadow or pasture land 83 acres, Woodland 33 acres, Common-land, the same being down land on which cows and sheep are fed, 77 acres. The whole quantity of land cultivated as Gardens and Orchards or Pleasure grounds is 25 acres, or thereabouts. The undermentioned lands of the said parish have been, under the undermentioned circumstances, exempt from tithes, *viz.*, Luccombe Farm—having formerly belonged to the Abbey of Quarr and so enjoyed by the said Abbey at the time of the dissolution and ever since.
>
> Signed, THOMAS BONIFACE.

THE "OLDE CHURCH" YARD.

Sharing equally with the church in the beauty of its situation and in the old-world associations which have grown up around it, is the churchyard, one of the quietest and fairest—a veritable God's Acre—within sight of the sea and within sound of its waves as they break and blanch on the shore, enlisting the deepest sympathies of all visitors to the spot. Referring to the beautiful surroundings, Canon Venables gives the quotation from Shelley as to another cemetery "covered with violets and daisies it might make one in love with death, to think one should be buried in so sweet a place." "Anear is the Landslip—the birds make melody in the budding bowers, and mingling with their music were the eternal symphonies of ocean."

An important distinction existed in earlier days between church and chapel, the former having the right of burial and of administering the sacraments only—the privilege of burial entitling a place of religious worship to assume the rank of a Parish Church. It can be imagined that in very early days, when the parishes were large and the cottages scattered over a wide area, with few usable roads, much hardship was entailed, especially in the winter season, by this arrangement. Shanklin burials took place at Brading, and those of Ventnor at Newchurch, in both instances six miles or farther away.

The absence of more early memorials is a matter of wonderment to many visiting the churchyard, knowing the many centuries that have elapsed since it was first used for interments. The absence is partly accounted for by the quite late introduction of memorial stones in village churchyards. These were almost unknown till the 17th century, so that many generations have been laid to rest without external notice. No memorial stone was placed over the remains of Chevalier d'Aux, the French leader killed in the ambuscade at Monks' Bay, and who is said by Oglander to have been buried here.

There is a narrative, given by Mr. Hubert Garle, of King Charles I, visiting this neighbourhood soon after his coming to the Island, at a time when he was treated more as a guest than as a prisoner. "Riding with his attendants to the church, the king was met by a funeral procession wending its way to the churchyard. Halting his attendants the king caused inquiries to be made as to the sad scene. On learning that it was the funeral of Sir Ralph Chamberlayne, his Majesty at once dismounted and joined the mourners, thus paying a last tribute of respect to one who, during his lifetime, had fought and bled for his monarch, and whose death was caused by wounds received in his service."

Many of the memorial stones bear the indication of a venerable antiquity, the grey ivy-clad stones marking the resting places of the rude fishermen and inhabitants of earlier days, many of the inscriptions being almost illegible. The earliest decipherable are those to Thomas

Mackutt 1616, John Stevens, 1619, and Sari, daughter of Robrd and Ann Combs, in 1620. The name of Mackett recurs in 1627, and underneath one of the cromlech-like tomb-stones "layeth the body of Willium Macket, who deceased at Luccom, 1646, beinge 81 yeare of his age." A later member was interred here, in 1660. It is more than probable that "Mackett's Farm," one of the four farmsteads constituting Bonchurch parish, received its name from an ancestor of this family, who occupied or owned it.

A noticeable feature in the earlier interments is the venerable age some of the residents attained, as in 1760, Richard Mackett, aged 96. Another member of this family, Robert Mackett, of Bonchurch, who died, "ninety years old," is commemorated by the author of *The Fair Island* :—

"The fatal hour alike to rich and poor
Hath toll'd!—the village patriarch lieth low,
From toil and care and pain and want and woe
Divinely rescued, evermore secure!"

In the first register of burials the ages of the deceased are not specified, a quaint notice being appended to the entry: Roger Pope, 1764, "an ancient man," Jane Hatcher, 1771, "an ancient woman," whilst in 1781 a patriarch, from his designation, is found in John Dier, "a very ancient man." Some of the names do not recur in the register, *e.g.*, those of Stevens, in 1619, and of two Princes in 1636. Solomon Prince, of Hursley, yeoman, probably a descendant, was a witness in the Luccombe tithe case in 1722.

"Whatever might have been their lot
Who here are lowly laid,
They're neither slighted nor forgot
Now nature's debt is paid;
It is so peaceful, so retired—
So free from pomp and strife,
That reason has become inspired,
And finds the proof, so long desir'd,
Of an eternal life!"

Some of the more recently erected memorials are singularly elegant. Here, where on the grey tomb-stone an iron cross casts an eternal shadow on the quiet grave, rest the mortal remains of William Adams, ever to be remembered as the author of the beautiful allegories of *The Shadow of the Cross* and *The Old Man's Home,* the scene of which is laid in Bonchurch, with the description of the landslip in East End and the churchyard. Nearer to the wall on the west side, rising white against the green fence with the tangled rose bushes and honey-suckle behind it, is the tombstone of Carlyle's great friend the highly gifted John Sterling, whose melancholy history is so well given in Hare's Biography.

"A tragic history as all histories are; yet a gallant, brave, and noble one, as not many are," says his biographer, "and so he played his part among us, and has now ended it, and sleeps in the little burying-ground at Bonchurch; bright ever young in the memory of others that must grow old. Here, years ago, sat Thomas Carlyle, pondering over the past, and picturing the 'brilliant human presence' whom he lovingly walked with while the years and the hours

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The New Church, Bonchurch, 1910.

were, but who was now gone from him for evermore, honourably released from his toils before the hottest of the day."

"How few amongst visitors, or residents," says a writer in the *Island Quarterly*, "know it, and fewer still, we fear, have formed an adequate estimate of the great endowments of the mortal man whose mortal part is here entombed."

These remarks on the "Old Church and its environs" cannot be more fitly concluded than by giving the following extracts from a letter by a well-known authoress, to her niece Daphne, descriptive of a visit to the Old Church :—

"I spent an hour this morning with a large company of young people and a few, a very few, elders. There never was a more interesting, nor in many ways a more beautiful gathering. There were many girls, and even many more young men, some just of age, some still younger, others in the prime of life, one who bore his sheaves with him in the form of books he had written. There were just a few children, one an only child, decked by its devoted parents in garlands of spring flowers. In the quietest of voices they spoke to us. We heard the soft chatter of the girls as they merrily laughed together; or perhaps that was a sigh that the breeze brought to our ears as we listened, thinking of one Ethel, who was nearly eighteen. How did I know their ages, Daphne? Because, dear, they were written on their graves in the quiet, little, sunny churchyard by the sea. Those young people lie here together within sound of the booming sea, their God's acre surrounded by great sentinel trees in which the thrushes and robins sing, the blackbirds whistle.

On such an exquisite morning it was good to think of Klopstock's line:

'Blest are the quiet dead,'

and to remember what a deep peace lay on the once restless hearts so safely covered in from the wild tumult of the world. 'Whom the gods love die young,' and here, indeed, is a goodly company of the beloved."[1]

OF THE NEW CHURCH.

The new Church, the successor of the little minster below the hill, calls for a few brief notes. It lies embosomed in foliage under the side of the hill close by the upper cliffs rising a hundred feet above, and is admirably situated.

The land on which the new Church stands and the Churchyard formed part of the manorial estate belonging to Mrs. White, who generously made over half the property to the living, and Admiral Swinburne buying the other moiety for £600, very munificently presented it also to the benefice.

The foundation stone was laid by the Rev. William Adams in June, 1847, and the church (B. Ferry, architect), "a plain well proportioned edifice in the Norman style," was paid for by voluntary contributions, and consecrated in December, 1848. "The interior is solemn and church-like. The eastern triplet and bull's-eye above are filled with very fair stained glass of a memorial character by Wailes. The windows in the transept and at the west end contain some admirable full-length figures

[1] Mrs. Humphrey.

of Apostles in ancient glass, the gift of the Rev. W. Sewell, D.D. The font was a tribute to the memory of Mr. Adams."[1]

"The Churchyard"—says Canon Venables, "has few rivals for picturesque beauty in England. Before leaving, the visitor should go as far as he can to the south, for the sake of the striking view of the range of cliffs above."[1]

Here, among the later comers, Algernon Charles Swinburne, the last of the great Victorian poets, lies buried, near by the island home of his earlier years, and within sound of the sea he loved so well.

In 1858 the sum of £900 was paid to the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty, and in 1859 the Governors made a grant of £100 to meet that benefaction. The total sum, with interest was expended in or towards the building of a Parsonage House for the benefice.

LIST OF THE RECTORS OF THE NEW CHURCH.

A.D. 1853.	Robert Hilton Scott.	Patron, H. B. Leeson.	
,, 1857.	Edmund Carr, M.A.	,,	,,
,, 1863.	John George Gregory, M.A.	,,	,,
,, 1870.	Henry John Maddock, M.A.	,,	,,
,, 1884.	George Law Harkness, M.A.	The Church Pat. Soc.	
,, 1887.	Henry Geldart, M.A.	,,	,,
,, 1894.	Ludovic C. A. Mouton, M.A.	,,	,,
,, 1896.	William E. Rowlands, M.A.	,,	,,
,, 1906.	John Floyd Andrewes, M.A.	,,	,,

NOTES AND EXTRACTS, ETC., FROM THE CHURCH REGISTERS.

The use of Registers was not generally observed until nearly the end of the 16th century, although the institution of parish registers commenced in 1538. The books, eight in number, dealing with Bonchurch parish, are in good preservation.

The earliest register records the baptisms from the year 1734; the register of marriages solemnised dates from 1754, and that of the burials from 1764.

Of the Baptisms

there is little to record. The names mentioned in the earlier book are the familiar ones still found in the district, the descendants no doubt of the earlier settlers. Some of the families whose names occur at the commencement frequently seem in the later years to have died out or to have left the parish. The first name on the register is that of Hatcher, followed by that of Dyer, and these two surnames recur from time to time down to 1833. A noticeable feature in the registers here, as in those belonging to other parishes situated in the Undercliff, is the local attachment of family names. Some of the familiar surnames extend from the earliest recorded entries down to

[1] Venables, *Guide to the I. of W.*, p. 212.

those of the present day. In the first fifty years the baptismal surname of Dyer recurs thirty-one times, the progeny of ten different families. The name of Hatcher occurs seventeen times, that of Cooper ten, Prowten six, and of Stagg seven times. The name of Prowten, between the years 1755 and 1805, occurs thirteen times, but it is singular to find no interment recorded of any members belonging to this family. In the same period one hundred and fifty-two baptisms are recorded, showing a yearly birth-rate of three per cent., and in the next fifty years two hundred and twenty-seven, giving an annual rate of four and a half.

The marked increase in the birth-rate, from 14 to 60, shown in the decade 1764-74, appears to indicate an influx of newly married people as residents, for there is no corresponding local increase in the marriage rate during this period.

Of The Marriages.

In accordance with an Act passed in the reign of George II, entitled "An Act for the better Preventing of Clandestine Marriages," registers of marriages were required to be kept. Between the year 1754 (the date when the Bonchurch register commences) and 1801, there were thirty-one couples married, five by licence and twenty-six by banns. Of the men, eighteen of them were resident in Bonchurch, eight came from Newchurch, two lived in Godshill, and the other three came from the villages of Arreton, Brading and Newport. Of the women, twenty-nine were resident in Bonchurch and one each in Brading and Newchurch.

After the law imposed upon the contracting parties the obligation to sign the register of marriages, an insight was afforded as to the educational qualifications of the parties. Of the twenty-six couples married by banns, more than one half—twelve men and seventeen women could not sign their names. In the fifty years, 1810-1860, the number of marriages solemnised was sixty-one. Of these, nine were by licence and fifty-two after publication of banns, and some indication of improved education is shown; for of these persons, just over a third —twenty men and seventeen women, were found wanting in this accomplishment. None of the parties had more than one Christian name in addition to the surname. There were ten Annes and one Hannah; five Elizabeths and one Betty; three Janes and one Jinny, with five Marys. Of the men, there were found nine James, four Johns, three Williams, eight Roberts, and the rest were in units.

Of the Burials.

The interments date from 1764. The first name on the register is that of Roger Pope "an ancient man." His name appears for many years on the parochial list of pensioners. During the first sixty years the ages are not given, unless something exceptional has to be noted.

If the deceased has passed the allotted span of existence, the distinction of "an ancient man" (or woman), and in one case only, that

of "Wold Jan Dier" in 1771, "a very ancient man" is added after the entry. The name of Dyer is again noticeable for recurring year after year, some twenty odd times in the first twenty years. Earlier in the century, Bonchurch would appear to have been peopled by a tribe having this cognomen. In 1729, the cottages were occupied as follows, by Richard, William, John, Thomas, and William Dyer, junior, two by Richard and Robert Mackett, the farms being in the occupation of Mr. John Coleman.

The name of Richard Simons appears as attending the first vestry in 1750, and up to the time of closing the old church, members of the family are constantly found supporting the Establishment as Clerk or Sexton. "Old Granny Simmonds" acted as that functionary towards the close, and died in 1848, at the advanced age of ninety-one, though currently believed to have attained to 103 years.

With the small population Bonchurch had, till quite a recent period, it is noticeable what a long-lived race many of the village residents proved. With the two exceptions, one in 1660 and the other in 1760, both Macketts, and whose names and ages are given on the tombstones as 62 and 96; no other ages are stated in the register till 1815. The following ages are given in the register between 1815 and 1869:—74, 78, 82, 89, 77, 86, 83, 79, 90, 84, 76, 83, 87, 82, 88, 80, 81, 91, 86, 89, 85, 86, 95, and 83. If the names were furnished, many would be found to belong to families indigenous to the district.

The following table of Marriages, Births, and Deaths has been compiled from the different registers—

Years	Marriages	Births	Deaths
1734–39	No record	7	No record
1740–49	—	16	—
1750–59	4[1]	9	—
1760–69	7	39	19[2]
1770–79	5	56	28
1780–89	8	63	22
1790–99	5	45	17
1800–09	5	46	17
1810–19	5	46	15
1820–29	3	45	16
1830–39	11	72	38
1840–49	25	83	46

Extracts from the Old Parish Books.

Some of the extracts from these books may appear trivial since no stirring incidents are recorded, but they serve to throw a little light on past parochial village history, and may thus interest some who cannot consult such records for themselves. We are able to compare, for instance, the ratings of the several properties in those days, the nature

[1] From 1754 to 1759. [2] From 1764 to 1769.

of the disbursements for which the rates were levied, what business was transacted at the vestry, who attended the meetings, etc.

The records commence with the making of a rate in the year 1750, a date which would correspond with the middle period of George II's reign, and, though very stirring times occurred for half a century onwards, nothing of this is found reflected in the village annals, beyond an increased rating and a lessened marriage rate.

No names of any resident gentry are found entered before the close of the 18th century except that of Mr. Hadfield, who was present at the vestry meeting in 1798. Others, however, soon followed.

The first entry is as follows:—"A rate on ye inhabitants of Bonchurch; for ye yeare 1750, for ye Relief of ye Poor of ye said place and allowed by us at our Publick Vestry, Richard Holme (curate), vice Wm. Downes, Rector; Thomas Stagg, collector, and four parishioners Edward Pope, Richard Simons (the Clerk), John Dyer and Thomas Chambers." The vestry was usually held in the Parish Church. It was customary at this period, as elsewhere, to transact most of the public business inside the church premises, presided over by the rector for the time being, and attended usually by the tenants of the four farm holdings comprising the parish, the minutes being recorded by the overseer. The different properties a century and a half ago, were assessed as follows:—

Loocomb Farm	£2	10	6
Bonchurch Farm	0	17	5
Parsonage	0	7	6
John Dyer for "Mackett's"	0	6	0
Marepool Farm	0	6	0
Bolehead (Luccombe)	0	3	6

These several sums amounted to £4. 10*s*. 11*d*., and, as the disbursements amounted to close upon £21, five rates, or books as they were called, were levied in the year to meet the current outlay.

Three quarters of a century later—in 1827—the rating was higher, as follows:—

James Jolliffe, rated for "Lowcombe Farm"	£4	8	7
Do. do. "Bolehead"	0	5	6
C. P. Hill, rated for "Bonchurch"	1	19	1
Joseph Hadfield, rated for "Marepool and Mackett's"	1	0	7
W. H. Surman, for his land	0	12	4
Archdeacon Hill, for Glebe	0	2	0
Joseph Hadfield, for his two houses	2	10	0
W. H. Surman, for his mansion and cottages	3	15	0
Mrs. White, for cottage at Bolehead	0	5	0
Total	14	18	1

Two years later the rating of "Marepool and Macketts" farms was increased threefold, to £3. 10*s*. 7*d*.

With the exception of a few shillings the whole amount levied in the earlier ratings was given in the shape of pensions of half a crown

weekly, for varying periods, to four old parishioners and shown as follows :—

For signing the book and a warrant	£0	2	0
For a way warrant and postponement	0	2	6
Bridewell Money	0	2	6
David Burt's expenses	7	11	5½
Mary Moorman's	7	10	5
Widow Moorman's expenses	3	15	6
Roger Pope's expenses	1	15	5

The whole amounting to £20. 19*s*. 9½*d*., confirmed by us, E. Worsley, and Bar. E. Leigh, Justices.

The above was in accordance with the famous Act of Elizabeth "that a fund should be raised in every parish in England, for the maintenance of its own poor." The application of this fund was placed in the hands of the parish officers, Justices of the Peace having control over it. The Bridewell money, a sum annually recurring, was the contribution of the parish toward the expenses of the House of Correction, established for the purpose of setting the vagrant able-bodied poor to work, and may be considered as having originated the workhouse system of England. The monetary relief would appear to have been granted for limited periods only. In the year 1830 only two rates were levied, and the disbursements were £8. 5*s*. 9*d*.

In the list of payments in 1752, is an entry of £2. 12*s*. 9*d*., for "cloths for Salter's boys." From other similar entries it would appear that the parish was chargeable with the maintenance of orphan and "natural" children, having also the power to apprentice out boys, and in this way to relieve poor parents. In 1753, is an entry "for a nurse for Salter's boy in the small pox" £1 3*s*. 0*d*., and in the following year "the doctor's bill—for Salter's boys—of £3. 10s. 0d." From other entries it is evident that small pox must have been a great scourge in the village from time to time. In 1761 there is an item "To nursing Robert Warder with the small pox £2. 2*s*. 0*d*., shown in the following entry: "The Disbursements of Thomas Stagg, of Luckham, Overseer of the poor of the Parish of Bonchurch, charged with four Rates, amounting to the sum of £18s. 1s. 8d. for the service of the year 1761 :—

Disbursed as Followeth—

To expences makeing up the last years acct	£0	6	2
To signing the Book of rates	0	2	0
To expenses to the midwife for Hannah Wickens and other expenses in her laying in	2	2	0
To the Nurseing Robt. Warder in the Small Pox	2	2	0
To Widow Salter's house rent	1	1	9
To Bridewell Rent	0	2	6
To Roger Pope as by Bills	5	10	8
To Cord of Wood do.	0	13	0
To Grocer and other necessarys. do.	1	13	5½
To House Rent	1	10	0
To the Maltster	0	12	0
	Etc., etc.		

The Wickens family were evidently "a bad lot" and a burden to

the little parish. In the year 1770 the "sister Martha Wickence's child had twenty-eight weeks' pay at 1*s.* 6*d.* per week," "To Martha Wickence nurse and other expenses, £2, and the following years' rates show an item for the child, 54 weeks pinchen, £4. 1*s.* 0*d.* In the records references are made to doctors, medical treatment, etc., but no name is mentioned, and from this it may be inferred that none were resident in the neighbourhood, otherwise, the name, being familiar, would have been given. The estate map of 1729 gives the name of *Dr.* Harvey, as holding a small plot of ground at Cook's farm, Ventnor. The "goal" or "Bridewell" money, a variable sum, was this year 9*s.* 9d., a contribution probably towards some vagrants' detention there. Not only were pensions given but the aged poor were also nursed, various sums being entered under this heading. In 1760 "To house rent and washing 30 shillings, malt and hops 15*s.* 10*d.*, coal and carriage 8*s.* 6*d.*, and other necessaries £1. 5*s.* 0*d.*" The name of William Symmonds occurs, as Clerk to the Vestry and Caleb Cooper as overseer and churchwarden. In 1762, "a sheet for Roger Pope 5*s.* 3*d.* and a shirt 3*s.* 3*d.*," and in the following year, Robert Warder is allowed £2. 12*s.* 6*d.*, "to bury his wife." By comparison this would appear a large sum, for a little later on is an entry "to burying Roger Pope coffin and shroud £1. 4*s.* 7*d.*, and in 1765, "to buring Mary Dier, 6 shillings, to coffin and shroud 15 shillings."

At this time the shroud or grave cloth must have been of wool, since the employment of this expensive material was compulsory, in accordance with an Act passed in 1678 "to encourage the consumption and increase the trade of clothiers and wool growers." During the middle ages it was customary to encase, or wrap the dead in the winding sheet or shroud, and usually to inter without the coffin. The curate of every parish was required to keep a register of all burials in woollen, and the Act was only repealed in 1814. The practice then in vogue has its survival in the present use of a woollen shroud.

The following items in 1764, are quoted, for the sake of a comparison with present day prices :—To John Dier, 14 bushels of coal, 14 shillings; a quartern of peas, £1. 4s. 7d.; a "copel" of fowls, a shilling and 4d.; a pound of butter for the same sum. In 1766, John Jeffrey had a sheet supplied at 4*s.* 6*d.* and a blanket at 6*s.* 0*d.*, and Widow Salter a sheet and a piloty (?), 6s. 6d. The disbursements in '67 include two bushels of wheat to two "pinsioners," at six shillings a bushel, a bushel of flour, at 8*s.* 4*d.*, a pair of "shoos" to Richard Saunders. The whole outlay being £19. 0*s.* 1*d.*, needing four rates "for the sarvis of the year," the "Joyl" money being 19*s.* and 1*d.*

"The Parish House," on which the sum of sixteen shillings had been spent in repairs in 1760 again required renovation in 1768. A similar structure known as the "Church house" will be referred to in Whitwell and Niton, and was a necessity in every parish. It was the property of the churchwardens of the parish for the time being, who were responsible for its up-keep, as shown in the following account rendered by Caleb Cooper. "The gentle reader" has no doubt already noticed

occasional peculiarities in spelling. There are some in the annexed disbursements for the year 1765.

	£	s.	d.
To sining the Book	£0	2	0
To expinses	0	5	0
To way warrent	0	2	0
To James Warder's house rent	2	2	0
To James Warder 25 weeks pinchen at three shillings a week	3	15	0
To the Doctor for Wm. Wickens' wife	1	7	0
To the Doctor for Richard Saunders	0	2	0
To goail money	0	19	0
For two hundred of bricks for the Parish house	0	2	4
To puting them up	0	1	8
To straaw for the Parish house	0	10	0
To one thousand of spars and ledgers	0	3	6
To the thetching the parish house	0	10	0
To mending the parish house and timber	0	7	0
To John Jefferys victaels	2	8	0
For too shirts	0	6	0
To John Jefferys washing and mending and dressing victaels for too year	2	0	0
For hous room for too year	1	0	0
To Richard Saunders eight weeks pinchen at two shillings and sixpence	1	0	0
To Bridewall money	0	2	6
Total	17	5	0

In 1773, the expenses of the poor amounted to £26. 16*s.* 8*d.*, before the Poor were removed to the "house," according to a notice requiring the Overseers in future to pay the Rates to the Treasurer of the House of Industry. The amount paid over for 1776, was £12. 6*s.* 4*d.* In 1785, a rate of 1*s.* 10*d.* was levied to meet the outlay—the poor-rate being £12. 16*s.* 4*d.* and the county rate £2. 17*s.* 0*d.* The parochial rate for 1799, was £16. 13*s.* 2*d.*; for 1800, £25. 6*s.* 2*d.*; for 1801, £47. 10*s.* 0*d.*; and in 1814, £42 10*s.* 8*d.*, the rise being probably due to continental causes. In the last mentioned year, the poor rate was £34. 9*s.* 0*d.* and the county rate £5. 17*s.* 7*d.* In 1824 the rating was £38. 18*s.* 4*d.*; for 1830, £52 11*s.* 6*d.*; and for 1842, £59 0*s.* 0*d.*

The following list of the churchwardens is taken from the Parochial records :—

1750, Thomas Stagg—of Luckham.
1762, Caleb Cooper.
1797, John Cooper.
1801, Barnabus Cooper.
1813, James Jolliffe.
1815, James Jolliffe and Mr. Hadfield.
1835, Arthur Way.

Parish Clerks :

1750, Richard Simmons.
1760, William Symmonds.
1784, Harvey Cass.
1800, James Symmonds.
1824, "Granny" Simmonds.

View of the Village of Ventnor in 1821, with the Mill.

Taken from the Shore.

Chapter V.

OF VENTNOR.

The Story of Ventnor may well be divided into two parts, the first, giving the few meagre details connected with the early history of the little village and the primitive conditions which then existed, and the second, tracing briefly the more modern developments consequent upon the publication of Sir James Clark's book *On the Sanative Influence of Climate.*

OF THE EARLY HISTORY.

In contradistinction to its near neighbour Bonchurch, Ventnor has no storied history belonging to the past, worthy of the name. Prior to the year 1828, it was a small village, one of the half-dozen hamlets scattered along the south coast of the Island, whose scanty seafaring population employed themselves in fishing and other allied means of earning a livelihood. It was the most picturesque spot along the coast. "Down to the broad smooth beach the ground ran in rough slopes, mingled with abrupt banks of rock, along which a brawling rivulet careered gaily towards the sea; and a few fishermen's huts gave a piquant rustic liveliness to all besides."

Worsley, the earliest of Island historians, makes no reference to the locality. Albin, in 1795 says :—"Perhaps we ought not to overlook the small village of Ventnor, near the south shore of this parish (*i.e.*, Newchurch) between Steephill and Bonchurch, the little Cove of which is so well known for its very romantic scenery and cascade of fine water. After this last has served to turn a corn mill, it falls upon the beach. This place is also noted for its crab and lobster fishery, for the supply of the London markets."[1]

One of the earlier guide books, *The Delineator,* says, in 1834 "a short walk—from the New Inn—will take us to the little mill, waterfall, and cove of Ventnor, where the busy scene of a seashore, with its groups of fishermen, often give interest to a spot that is not unworthy the eye of contemplation and the pencil of the painter. There is a bathing machine on the shore during the summer months for the accommodation of the public."

The derivation of the word has puzzled the etymologists. It was at first thought to be derived from a Celtic word "*gwent*" (latinised into Venta), "white," and "*nor*," an exposed beach or strand. A later view, and probably the more correct one, is given by Mr. Shore: "that the name is of Danish origin. Place names along the Hampshire and Isle

[1] Albin's *Hist. I. W.*, p. 521.

of Wight coasts ending in '*ore*,' '*or*,' a strand indicating this, and correspond to the name 'Elsinore,' in Denmark. Good examples of the permanence of these shore names are found in Needsore, Stansore, Copnor and Rownor, all Danish names belonging to the Hampshire coast."[1]

At an earlier period Ventnor may thus have been the settlement of a small colony of Danes and Norsemen, who brought in the name which survives as evidence of such settlement.

A recently published handbook, dated 1900, gives—perhaps facetiously—what is said to be a more probable, if less imposing etymology, connected with an ancient inn—now widely known as the Crab and Lobster Hotel—then held with the adjacent mill, by one Barton, popularly called "the Vintner." "Hence came Vintner's Mill and Vintner's Cove, easily corrupted into Ventnor." Now this solution will scarcely suffice, for the word Vintner, or Vintener, is frequently made use of in the earlier histories of the Island. Six hundred years before Barton's day, it is interesting to find "William, the vyntener" serving *circa* 1341, as one of four jurors in the "Inquisition of the Ninths" for the adjoining parish of Bonchurch.

The "*vintenerius*" was the person who received the *vintenum* or tax of the twentieth of the produce of the land, due to the feudal lord.

About the same time the name appears in a Roll giving the "Disposition of the Militia in the Isle of Wight, *temp.* Edward III." Peter de Heyno, Lord of Stenbury, in command of this district, had the Lord of Wathe 'his vintener,' or lieutenant.[2]

Although no positive documentary evidence is forthcoming, there is no doubt that Ventnor was, some eight centuries or more ago, an integral part of the ancient Saxon manor of "Holeweye," and formed the extreme southern boundary of the parish of Newchurch, in which that manor was comprised.

The early history of Ventnor is therefore identical with that pertaining to the parish of Newchurch and the manor of Wroxall. Though the manor is not within the confines of the Undercliff, it would seem that some reference to it is called for, and this will be given later.

It was thought, by the late Mr. W. T. Stratton,[3] that the land on which Ventnor stands was the small portion of land referred to in the *Testa de Nevill,* as held by Reginald le Corner of the Countess Isabella de Fortibus.

"Reginaldus le Corner tenet de comitissa ad marcam iiij*d.* per 40am partem unius feodi in Wroxhale."[4]

Translation.

"Reginald le Corner holds of the Countess—ad marcam iiij*d.* for the 40th part of one fee in Wroxall."

(The rent, *ad marcam,* means, that rent should be paid at a rate of so much for each mark—13*s.* 4*d.*—of annual value.)

[1] *Proc. H. F. C.*, vol. iii, p. 246.
[2] W., *App.*, No. 12.
[3] *Island Quarterly Magazine*, 1877–8.
[4] *Testa de Nevill*, p. 241, Rec. Com.

Mr. Stratton adds: "We have not, at present (the time being 1877-8), sufficient evidence to identify it with certainty." Later research has thrown doubt on the inference, since it is by no means certain that—

(*a*) The land held by Reginald le Corner was located in the Undercliff. It might have been the fields at the cross roads near the hamlet of Branston—still known as "Gallyhorn"—the place where the horn was blown to give notice of the driving of cattle to be marked. Stratton designates the holder of the plot of land as "the horn-blower," and, as such, he probably held a remote part, or corner of the estate.

(*b*) The area of land—"the 40th part of a knight's fee"—does not correspond to the "ancient demesne" on which the modern town of Ventnor stands.

(*c*) The extent of his holding is shown later by the assessment of Reginald le Corner, for the Feudal Aid, in 1327. His assessment is amongst the lowest ratings of the twenty-nine householders at the time.

(*d*) The southern boundary of the Wroxall manor did not extend below the summit of St. Boniface Down. It ran from east to west, parallel with the boundary line, defining the northern limits of the Ventnor and Littletown farms.

Documentary evidence, on the other hand, can be adduced favouring the supposition that "the ancient demesne and tithing of Holeway" corresponded to the two farms, Ventnor and Littletown, now covered with residential houses.

The earliest reference to Holeway, presumably the manor in question, occurs in the year 1263. On the death of Baldwin, the last heir male of the De Redvers family, an inquisition was taken, the writs, "*de diem clausit,*" being dated January 11th and July 13th. The return made by the jurors for Christchurch Castle states: "That castle guard is due in war time from the prior of Christchurch, for eight days at his own cost for the land of Sweye, similarly from Roger de Hineton for the land of '*Holeweye,*' and Roger de Holehurst for his land at Holehurst."[1]

In the return made by the Dean of the Isle of Wight to Bishop Woodlock, in 1305, it is stated that "The abbot and convent of Lyra received all the great and small tithes from the demesne of Wroxall, the greater tithes of the manor of Appuldurcombe, next the Stone, and the greater tithes from the ancient demesnes of Apse, Holeway, and Knighton."

On a Patent Roll the following appears:—

1349. Oct. 28. Westminster. "Licence for the alienation in frank almoin by John, vicar of Christchurch, Twynham (and others) to the prior and convent of Christchurch, Twynham, in satisfaction of 13*s.* 4*d.* of the 10 pounds (libras) yearly, of land and rent which they have the King's licence to acquire . . . . in Christchurch, Holeweye, etc."[2]

At the dissolution of the Priory, in 1539 (though Apse manor, Newchurch, contiguous to Wroxall, is mentioned), no reference to Holeweye occurs in the enumeration of the priory estates.[3] In the "Liberties claimed by Isabella de Fortibus, Lady of the Island, 8 Edward I," the first name entered on the list is that of—

[1] *Cal. Inq. p. m.*, Hen. III, vol. i.
[2] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 1272—1354, p. 414.
[3] V. C. H., *Religious Houses*, vol. ii, p. 159.

"D'nus Johannes de Insula tenet vij feoda et dimidium . . . . de Isabella de Fortibus, in capite, unde tenent in dominio maneria de Rewe, Bonechurch, *Holeway,* Shentling . . . ."[1]

It will be observed that no reference is made to Wroxall, and, it may be mentioned, that, with a single exception, no reference is made to any property in Wroxall being held by the De Insula family.

The Subsidy Roll for 1327 affords further evidence that Holeway was, inferentially, a distinct entity from Wroxall. The name of Reginald le Corner is entered in the assessments for the "Villata de Wroxhale," and Will'o de Holeway for the "Villata de Wathe" (*i.e.,* Undercliff).[2]

In a Close Roll, under date 22nd April, 1344, is entered :—"Order to the treasurer and barons of the Exchequer not to intermeddle until further orders with . . . the manor of Wroxhale . . . which are in the hands of aliens, etc., as the king has reserved the same to his chamber."[3]

Another deed, 19 Edward III (1346), gives details of an inquisition taken at Newport, Isle of Wight, before Thomas de Aspall, sheriff of Southampton, as to the extent of the priory church of Carisbrooke, and from it the following excerpt is taken :—

"Item porcis p[er] curat[um] ad eundem p[ri]orat[um] spect[antem] videl[ice]t decie (?) de Wroxhal, Holewey, ..."[4]

Translation.

"Item (from) the swine, by the curator belonging to the same priory, the tenths of Wroxall, Holeway. . . . ."

At the inquisition taken on the death of Sir Bartholomew de Insula, 19 Edward III (1346), no reference to Wroxall or Holeway is made in the list of estates. A supplemental return, issued five years later, furnishes the one exception to the rule of no estate belonging to the De Insula family being found in Wroxall :—

"24 Edw. III (1351)—Barth'us de Insula."
Holeway—in villa de Wroxhale, 40 acr' terr' etc."[5]

The original return made by the jurors has been referred to for verification, and the entry, as given, found correct.

The succession of Bartholomew's son and heir, John (3) de Insula, to the family estates, supplies further evidence as to the site upon which the town of Ventnor stands. This is furnished in a Close Roll,[6] the text having been given at length in an earlier chapter (p. 63), the purport of the deed being that: "John de Lisle acknowledges by an indenture that he owes Thomas de Lisle, clerk, of Wodyton (probably an uncle), the sum of two hundred pounds and grants, in settlement of the claim, the manor of Holeway with its liberties. . . ." In the body of the deed a field known as "Port," of sixteen acres, is referred to as pertaining to Littletown farm. The reference is of further interest, since it defines the position of the manor as being contiguous to Bonchurch.

[1] W., *App.*, No. 30.
[2] *Index to Subs. R.*, vol. i (Rec. Off.).
[3] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1343—1346, p. 303.
[4] *Add. MS.*, No. 24, 789, p. 249 (Br. Mus.).
[5] *Calend. Inq. p. m.*, vol. ii, No. 50, 1st Ser.
[6] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1354—1360.

An inquisition taken, 9 Edward IV (1408),[1] shows that "Joh'es Lysle, Miles" was seised at his death of the manors of Shanklin, Holeway, etc. No mention of Wroxall is made in the return.

In the Feudal Aid of 1431 the assessment is entered thus :—

"Galfridus Borard de Shentlyng, gentilman, seisitus fuit ut de libero tenemento . . . . de dimidium' feoda militis in Shentlyng et Hokeweye in dicta insula."[2]

The purport being that—

"Geoffrey Borard, of Shanklin, gentleman, was seised of a free tenement . . . . and half a knight's fee in Shanklin and Holeweye in the said island."

Further corroborative evidence is furnished in a plaint held at Newport on October 6th, 15 James I (1617) :—

Plaintiffs—Andrew Yeldman, James Bartlett and others.

Defendants—Sir Edward Dennis, Knt., Thomas Knight, Thomas Elliot.

Subject—Wroxall downe. Also touching the manors of Bonchurch, Littleton, Holloway, and Lowcomb . . . .

The depositions of the several witnesses are given in two long membranes, and furnish the names of local residents well-nigh three centuries ago :—

Statements by—Sir John Leigh, *re* common on Wroxall Downe; William Newnham, of Gotten, age 53 years; Thomas Blowe, of Binbridge; John Barnam, of Newchurch, and Agnes Saunders, of Godshill, who says "that *Vintner,* Littletowne, and Holloway are tithings of themselves, and that Sir Edward Dennys' ancestors have always kept Court and Law-daie at Holloway and thither his tenants have always resorted to do their suit royall." Further depositions on the subject were made by—Thomas Harris, of Arreton; Richard Cole, of Whitwell; Richard Dyer, of St. Lawrence; Nicholas Newman, of Godshill, and Robert Prince, of Bonchurch, who saith "that he had known Wroxall Downe for 35 years." He confirmed at length Agnes Saunders' statement that Littletowne, Holloway, and Vintner were tithings within themselves; further, John Newe, of Wroxall, states "that the farmer of Vintner hath heretofore gathered towards the payment of 6*s.* and 1 penny, 22 pence before the law-daie and so hath delivered it to the tithing man of Wroxall."

William Punch, of Newchurch; William Chestle, of Shanklin; David Patten, of Winston, also gave evidence.[3]

In the year 1216, Walter de Insula is shown exercising his right of ownership over an estate other than Bonchurch, in the Undercliff, granting land on the side of St. Boniface Down to the abbey of Quarr. The land is locally known to-day as the "Bishop's Acre." The text of the charter is given *in extenso* on page 117.

Owing to failure of the direct line, a division of the Lisle estates in Shanklin and the Undercliff took place in 1546. The partition deed is given at length on page 70.

During the reign of James I (1603-1625) the Ventnor estate was occupied by a Mr. Lancelot Lisle. In the record of the Hundred Court for the East Medine, held 30th September, 1603, he "is returned in the entry of Wroxall tithing as absent, and amerced 3*d.* for his

[1] *Calend. Inq. p. m.*, vol. iii, p. 320.
[2] *Inq. & Ass. re Feudal A.*, vol. ii., p. 365.
[3] *Dep. K. Pub. Rec.*, 38th Rep., 1877, p. 662.

default." In the Court Baron, held at Wroxall on the 1st of April, in the same year, it is also presented of him that "he has done harm to the lord the king because he has encroached upon the lands of the aforesaid king and his tenants of the aforesaid manor with sheep in the King's Common." At a Court held on the 20th October following, "Item, wee doe present that Mr. Lancelott Lysle doth surcharge and deteyne, Wroxall Common in the right of Mr. Dennys" is recorded. The latter gentleman was the owner of Shanklin, Bonchurch, and other lands in the Undercliff.

The Dennys family held the estates till 1688, the connection coming to an end in a daughter and sole heiress. Ultimately the "Pophams," by marriage, had possession of the estates, and retained them for about a century, to 1800. The several properties were then divided between two families, the "Popham Hill" taking the Undercliff property, and the "Popham White" the Shanklin estates, both families being descendants of Mr. John Popham, the former by his first marriage, the latter by the second.

Taking into consideration the intimate associations the "Hill" family had with the Ventnor and Steephill estates it may be interesting to trace the descent more at length. Mr. George Popham, the third son of Alexander Popham, of Littlecote, married a Miss Dulcibella Ford, and had issue an only son, John Popham. He married as his first wife Elizabeth, daughter of John Redstone, of Newport, I.W., and had issue an only daughter, Elizabeth. She married Lieut.-Colonel William Hill, and left, with other children,—

I.—Charles Fitzmaurice Hill.
II.—Henry Hill, Rear Admiral, R.N.
III.—Justly Hill.

The first named married Margaret Buckley, and had issue Charles Popham Hill, who inherited the Ventnor and Steephill estates, and a daughter, Rosa Hill, who married the Rev. James White, and succeeded to the Bonchurch properties.

In the year 1729 a plan of the Undercliff estates belonging to Mr. Popham was drawn up (see map). The Ventnor section comprised two farms, having an area of 370 acres, representing the ancient manor of Holeway, and the Mill with five acres of land annexed to it.

LITTLETOWN FARM

was the larger of the two holdings, one half of the 200 acres of land attached to it being down-land. The farm extended in a westerly direction from Bonchurch to the high ground known as "the Long-down," a part of the Ventnor farm. In the other direction Littletown Farm extended southwards to the large field named "Port," lying along the sea front, conferring the name of "High Port" on the little cove below the cliff. The Down lands formed the northern boundary. The farm extended, in a large field called "Berrils," from Spring Hill

WARREN & SON, LTD., WINCHESTER.

MAP OF VENTNOR, 1729

Littletown Farm 197.036.

Ventnor Farm... 170.239.

Plots marked _____ *and "L" belong to "Littletown" Farm.*

" ..... " "V" " "Ventnor" "

to the present Grove Road, and reached the western boundary by a narrow nine acre field known as "Four Linches." These fields divided the Ventnor farm into two almost equal parts.

With a little thought we can picture the transformation which has taken place during the past seventy years, and locate the several properties which are now distributed over its surface.

ST. BONIFACE HOUSE,

known as St. Boniface Cottage, though changed by the substitution of slates for thatch and the loss of many of the trees, still remains much as it was 150 years ago. It was the only house in the neighbourhood beyond a mere labourer's hut, with any claim to antiquity. It is referred to by Worsley, in 1781, "as the cottage of St. Boniface; Colonel Hill, the proprietor of it, has made considerable additions there, and the garden is laid out with taste."[1]

Hassell, writing in 1790, says: "It is so retired, that it might almost be styled a hermitage; and at the same time it boasts of all that Nature can bestow."[2]

Pennant says: "St. Boniface's Cottage is an elegant little building under the precipitous rocks. We were introduced into it, and met with a most polite reception from Mrs. Hill, the lady of Colonel Hill, the owner, who made this most sequestered spot her frequent and long abode."[3] About the same period Mr. Wyndham refers to the cottage as being "a comfortable house, and lies at the foot of a steep mountainous down, on a little level plain, and looks towards some long, regular slopes of rock, naturally covered with thick coppices, and between which a few partial views of the sea open to the house."[4]

No manorial rights were attached to the property. The tenant farmer in 1729 was James Coleman; members of this family have, for a century and a half, held farms in the Undercliff, and filled various offices as overseer, etc., in the Bonchurch parish. The present Maples stables, with part of the coach-house, stand on the site, and formed part of the farmstead of the holding.

One other building was located on the Littletown estate—the "New Inn," one of the two "ancient hostelries" mentioned in the earlier Guides to the Isle of Wight. Situated under St. Boniface Down, close by the then narrow, steep, rugged, and very dangerous "Shute," coming down from "Sloven's bush"; one of the two entrances to this part of the Undercliff. The cause of its erection is given by John Green in his Recollections:—"Mrs. Groves had kept a small inn close by the south side of Steephill Castle. 'Twas her own property (lifehold), but when the lives dropped it fell to the Earl of Dysart, who then held the Steephill estate." In other words, the little property was leasehold, held on a tenure, common in those days, of three lives renewable on payment

[1] W., *Hist I. W.*, p. 203.
[2] Hassell, *Tour of I. W.*, vol. ii, pp. 1–2.
[3] Pennant, *A Journey to I. W.*, vol. ii, p. 184.
[4] Wyndham, *A Picture of I. W.*, p. 79.

of a fine. "Mrs. Groves, being highly respectable, had many great friends, and her licence was transferred, in 1801, to the building then in course of erection." Being an enterprising and energetic woman, Mrs. Groves had, in the meantime, pitched her tents on the side of the Down to accommodate the company. Missing the many fine shady trees and arbours which surrounded her former abode, it is probable the landlady planted the woods which now add so much to the charm of the situation.

An early reference to the house occurs in a letter of Thomas Webster (quoted in Englefield's *Isle of Wight*): "New Inn, Ventnor, May 27th, 1811, which I propose to make my headquarters. The hill of chalk immediately behind the Inn, called St. Boniface Down, presents a remarkable appearance. Along its whole length, the perpendicular wall of sandstone rock is wanting. The slope of the down is of that steepness beyond which a heap of loose materials will not lie without slipping, on which account patches of the grass are continually coming off."

In June, 1843, John Sterling, the friend of Carlyle, purchased the property and took up his residence here, "which still retains the improvements and adjustments on a grand scale of its highly gifted owner." He was then suffering from a pulmonary affection, and did not long survive, dying in the September of the following year. He was laid to rest within the sacred precincts of the churchyard at Bonchurch, his brother-in-law, the Rev. F. D. Maurice, reading over his grave the Church's words of hope and comfort. The house was afterwards the residence of Captain Newall, who, with his gifted sons, did so much to enliven the social life of the neighbourhood in their time.

"THE BISHOP'S ACRE"

around which such a halo of mystery has grown, must now be considered. This plot of ground at the foot of the Down stands on the north side of St. Boniface Road, just outside the parish boundaries, and before Ventnor, in 1867, was constituted a separate Urban Authority, formed a part of the Newchurch parish.

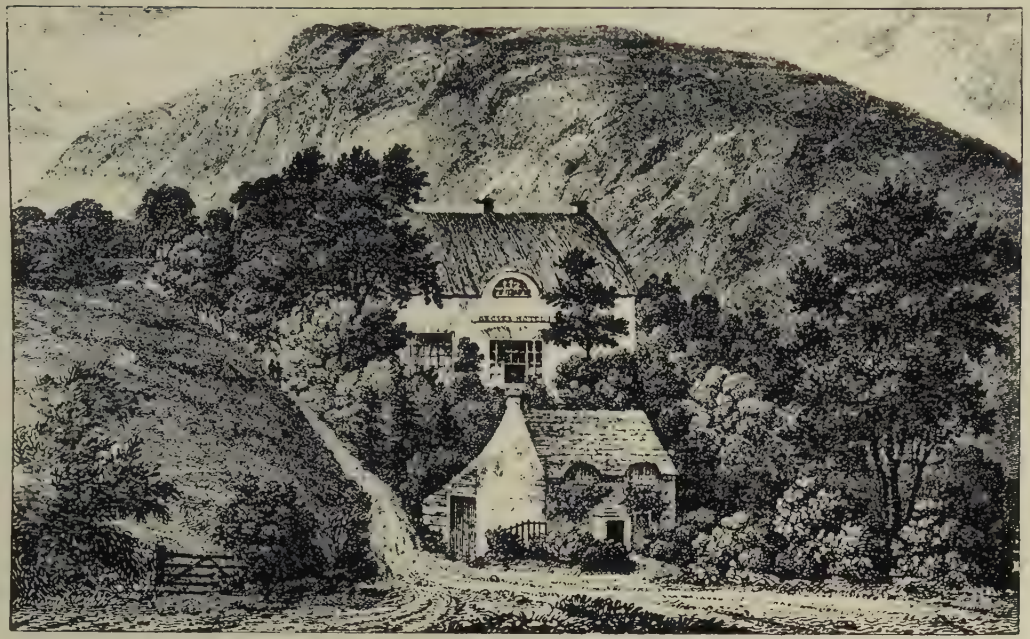
Several interesting stories have arisen in connection with it. The earliest I can find is the following:—

"There are few places of antiquity but what have some extraordinary stories told of them. Among those circulated in this neighbourhood is the following: A gentleman mistaking his road during a heavy snow, and descending, in consequence of it, the steep down of St. Boniface, on horseback, he was so affected by the danger he was in, that he vowed if ever he reached the bottom of the hill in safety, he would, as a memento of the kindness of Providence, purchase the land, and present it to the church of Shanklin."[1]

Albin, five years later, repeats this version, and further says that:—

"It needs only to be added that a small parcel of land, containing about an acre, was given to the living in this situation, and, as supposed, in consequence of that vow."[2]

[1] Hassell, *Tour to I. W.*, vol. ii, pp. 1–2. [2] Albin, *Hist. of I. W.*, p. 494.



Groves Hotel, 1810, now Hillside 1910.

The story, as related by Adams, varies the particulars :—

"Good St. Boniface, during a very stormy night, having missed his path, found himself descending this steep,—not a very pleasant expedition on horseback,—and thereupon vowed that if he reached the bottom in safety, he would purchase the land where he alighted, and endow with it the Church of Shanklin. He *did* descend in safety, and he piously kept his vow;—the land is known in remembrance thereof as the 'Bishop's Acre.'"[1]

The tradition, as related by Canon Venables is :—

"That a certain bishop who, riding over the Downs, lost his way in a thick mist, and to his horror found himself on the brink of the precipitous face of the hill; not knowing what to do, he threw the reins on his horse's neck, who at once beginning to descend the steep slope, his rider gave himself up for lost, and invoking the aid of St. Boniface, vowed that if he reached the bottom in safety he would give an acre of ground to the church which bore his name. Either through the aid of the saint, or the sure-footedness of his steed, the bishop did reach the bottom of the hill with neck and limbs unbroken, and the Bishop's Acre is a lasting memorial of the perilous descent."[2]

Canon Venables says, in alluding to the legend, "that the story does account, in a manner not altogether incredible, for the singular fact that this little rectangular plot lying by itself in the midst of other property, and not even in the parish of Bonchurch, has belonged to the Rector from time immemorial." As the "old sea captain" says in his *Wanderings in the Isle of Wight,* "it is a curious tale, but as to the truth of it—that is quite another story."

In the Appendix to Worsley's History a charter of Walter de Insula is given, granting land on the side of St. Boniface, next to Luccombe, to the monks of Quarr Abbey. The charter is couched in the following terms :—

"Sciant præsentes et futuri quod ego Walterus de Insula, assensu et voluntate Galfridi filii et hæredis mei, dedi et concessi Deo et beatæ Marie de Quarraria et monachis ibidem Deo servientibus terram cultibilem lateris montis sancti Bonifacii qui est versus Luvecumbam," etc.[3]

Mr. Percy Stone gives the purport of the charter clearly :—"A feoffment in fee of Land made to the monks of Quarrer according to boundaries set by common assent of the Parties. Gift by Walter de Insula, with the consent of his son Geoffery, of the side of St. Boniface down next Luccombe: testibus Will. filio Stur, Will Avenel. Seal, a knight riding at speed in his right hand the bridle, in his left extended a hawk."[4] The date of the charter is not given, and though assigned to the time of Henry III, is probably of an earlier date, towards the close of King John's reign. Walter de Insula died in 1221; the son, Geoffrey, was probably of full age when he assented to the grant, and therefore born by or before 1201.

The gift could not have been to the church of Shanklin, since that church was not founded till a later period—after 1305 and before 1333. The edifice is not mentioned in the Dean's return of the Island churches, but is referred to in Bishop Stratford's register, 1323–33, and is then in the presentation of John de Insula, the probable founder of the church

[1] Adams, *I. W.*, p. 199.
[2] Venables, *G. to I. W.*, p. 218.
[3] W., *App.*, No. 64.
[4] *Archit. Antiqt.*, vol. i, p. 110.

and the patron of the Bonchurch living. Shanklin was a chapelry—not having the right of burial or of administering the sacraments, and the residents had to resort to Brading in order to bury their dead. The Bishop could not have been St. Boniface, who lived several centuries earlier. When the temporalities belonging to Quarr Abbey were dispersed, there is no deed to show how this parcel of land became attached to the Bonchurch living. It was not unusual, however, where monasteries had been previously established, to transfer the tithes, glebe, etc., to a church of later foundation in the locality from whence the offerings were derived, the consent of the Bishop having first been obtained.

Mr. F. J. Hughes, the present owner of 5, 6, 7, and 8, St. Boniface Terrace, rents part of the glebe land known as "Bishop's Acre" on lease, renewable every twenty-one years, from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and the Rector of Bonchurch, at an annual rental of £12. The land thus leased is included in and forms part of the garden ground attached to the houses.

"ST. BONIFACE WISHING WELL."

There is another feature connected with the early history of Ventnor which ought to be noticed. The "Wishing Well," or "Holywell Spring," as it is called by Worsley, is situated on the steep face of the down, not far from its summit, and although, in these later days, it has fallen from its high estate, and its claims are barely recognised, has still several interesting points connected with it which call for notice. Its antiquity is undoubted, and if the past history could be traced we should have to go back many centuries to a period when well-worship was in vogue. This of itself should excite the interest and enlist the sympathies of all who visit the spot. Reverence, or in other words, well-worship, can be traced from the most remote antiquity all the world over. It appears to have been common alike to the Pagan Celts and to the Saxon Christians. It was found difficult to put down this worship, and many edicts of the Church were directed against it, from the 5th to the 11th centuries. What could not be suppressed would appear to have been at last sanctioned under the patronage of the Saints; hence we have St. Boniface Well, St. Lawrence Well and Holiwell, Niton, in the neighbourhood, as examples of such holy wells.

"I think there can be little doubt," writes Mr. T. W. Shore, "that the 'Wishing Wells' are survivals of the medieval holy wells. In Hampshire and the Isle of Wight we have a considerable number of wells and springs which had a sanctity in previous centuries, and which have, or had, a 'Folk Lore' of their own down to the last century. First, in point of interest, among these is St. Boniface Well, at Bonchurch."[1]

The earliest reference to the Well is found in the pages of Tomkins' *Tour to the Island,* showing that the sanctity of the well and its claims were duly recognised:—"Just above the house (St. Boniface House) is

[1] Shore, *Memorial Vol.*, p. 99 (H. F. C.).

Ventnor Farm, 1910 (the Manor House).

a spring, which was formerly held in high veneration by the seamen. It was their custom, in passing this place, to lower the fore-topmast in reverence to St. Boniface."[1] A further notice occurs in the pages of Englefield :—" Near to the top of the slope, and in the steepest part of it, is a small spring, famous by the name of St. Boniface's Well, and regarded by the people with a sort of religious veneration," adding later :—" I climbed up the steep side, by the path which leads to the celebrated Well of St. Boniface, which, however, was at that time a very inconsiderable spring. A spring at this height is a most remarkable circumstance, and the only instance of the kind in the whole range of chalk downs. It indicates some stratum within the hill differing from the chalk, which would certainly let the rain water sink through its substance here, as it does everywhere else."[2] The late Canon Venables says :—" The remarkable fact of a spring bursting forth at so great an elevation is alike interesting to the geologist and to the lover of old superstitions, from the reverence which it is said, was formerly shown to it. The popular belief was, that if the well were reached without once looking back, any wish formed while drinking the water would certainly be granted, and the story goes that the lads and lasses of the neighbourhood used to resort to the well on St. Boniface Day to deck it with garlands of flowers."[3] This custom, I need hardly say, no longer exists among the merrymakings of the district, but is buried in oblivion, with many other partially religious observances of the olden times in " Merrie England."

THE VENTNOR FARM

in 1729, comprised some one hundred and seventy acres, ninety-two being arable and the remaining seventy-seven pasture land. It has been mentioned that the farm was divided by two fields belonging to Littletown Farm. The upper half of sixty acres was mainly downland, and is now covered with numerous small tenements. Extending along the sea front, from the western boundary, was a fourteen acre field, known as " Colling's," a name preserved in Collin's Point, and now covered by St. Catherine's Street, Cowleaze, etc. In a line with it was a close of nine acres called " Heath," represented now by Devonshire Terrace, Dudley Road, and Albert Street. The Mill property intervened between this and the third field—" Burnhill," of ten acres. The name of the field was preserved in Burnhill Cottage, Church Street, occupied by the late Mr. Bush. This area is now covered by Hambrough Road, Church Street, and the Chicken Pit. Adjoining the Steephill boundary was a fourth field known as " Ashpole" of seven acres, extending from Alma Road to Milanese Villa, and northwards included the Belgrave Road and the adjoining properties. The farmstead was snugly placed in the centre of a sheltered valley. Stretching upwards from it on the right hand side was a long narrow field, the " Bank," through which a stony lane—the modern Tulse Hill, having a very steep gradient, joined the Grove Road. On the other side was a five-acre field, known as the " Grange,"

[1] Tomkins, *Tour to I. W.*, vol. ii, p. 121.
[2] *Picturesque Beauties, &c., of I. W.*, pp. 37 and 130.
[3] *Guide to the I. of W.*, p. 219.

represented by the Elm Grove estate. The road was lined with a row of elm trees, and along it, through the Grove, the shepherd drove his sheep to and from the Downs and the farmstead.

The earliest information shows only one other tenement on this part of the estate, that of a Timothy Dyer, a house and garden abutting on Spring Hill, now known as "High Bank." Placed outside the western boundary, but possibly forming a part of the property, were four small holdings with a house and garden attached, severally belonging to Dr. Harvey, Thomas Cave, John Brett, and William Gilbert, also a garden belonging to a member of the ubiquitous family, Dyer.

The tenant of the farm was Mr. Thomas Cooyd, a family having no representative living here to-day. A few years later Farmer Drudge is found in occupation, and lastly, Mr. Way held it till building operations compelled him to move further away to Luccombe. The house was then inhabited by Lady Frances Tollemache, a member of the Dysart family, owning the Steephill estate. In 1828 Mr. Hadfield moved here from Bonchurch and named it "The Cottage." The house remained the possession of this family till the death of the last surviving member, when the property underwent a ruthless change, for, though the house remained, it was shorn of a part of the adjoining land with the sylvan brook running through the grounds. The stately elms where the cawing of the rooks vied with the song of the thrushes and blackbirds, were either ruthlessly cut down or mercilessly lopped. The home paddock became the building site of St. Catherine's Church. On another part of the property a modern laundry is now established the "*utile,*" but certainly not the "*dulce*" of the prospect.

THE VENTNOR COVE AND MILL.

The Ventnor Cove and Mill must always have presented a striking feature when viewed from the shore, and all the early writers, coasting round the Island, extol its beauty. "The neatness of the fishermen's cottages," writes one in 1790, "is remarkable, and their situation uncommonly pleasant, being open to a full prospect of the sea in front and backed by woods and the high Downs of St. Boniface." Wyndham, in 1793, says:—"The little cove of Ventnor is very well known for its romantic scenery, and for a considerable cascade of fine water, which after turning a corn mill, falls upon the beach."[1] Cooke adds: "That the coast scenery of this cove, or bay, rivals perhaps any other part of the island, the mill and waterfall, with the range of the fishermen's huts upon the shore and busy scene of the boats, form a lively and gratifying picture."[2] "The most picturesque spot along the coast, the smallest of small villages, consisting only of a group of low thatched huts on the shore; an old mill perched on a crag high above the beach, on which the stream which turned it dashed in a picturesque cascade towards the sea. A little thatched wayside inn, still known as the Crab and Lobster,

[1] *A Picture of the I. of W.*, p. 79.
[2] *A New Picture of the I. of W.*, p. 103 (publ. 1813).

with one or two humble lodging houses, were thirty years since the chief attractions for visitors." One other quotation is given from the pen of Charles Knight, whom the locality may claim as an early resident, and who passed his declining years at Serene View Villa, whence he could see the scene he had described in earlier days:—"Keeping under the cliff, and continuing our journey by sea, we soon came to Steephill Cove, an exceedingly pretty spot, but which, however, yields the palm of beauty and picturesqueness to Ventnor Cove, about a mile further on. Here the upland Downs, the very edges of which are seen fringed with sheep and cattle, stand out in bold eminence, there is a cliff and a little stream that tumbles from it, after working a mill; lower down, on some shelving rocks, there is a group of fishermen's cottages disposed as if a painter had had the arranging of them—nets, drying in the sun, baskets, oars, sails, 'scattered all about,' make up one of those marine pictures which can hardly be seen without delight; and, finally, in front of these thatched cottages, there is a wide and beautiful beach, and then a far-spreading transparent sea." "Not perhaps the least attractive of its charms," another writer adds, "is a splendid beach for maritime ablutions."

The Ventnor Mill (see sketch) had probably been in existence some centuries, the water power conferring a considerable monetary value upon the premises. It is probably the mill referred to in the Feudal Aid, 1 Edward III (1327), when "Geoffrey atte Mill" is named in the assessment list of the "Villata de Wathe." On the estate map of 1729 it is shown with five acres of ground attached, and in the occupation of Richard Street. The main source of the stream supplying the mill was in a one acre field, named Mill Hill, detached from the rest of the holding. After passing through other property, the stream entered the mill mead and garden of two and a half acres, finally flowing on to Mill Bottom of one acre and thence to the shore, "where its sparkling waters tumbled into the sea by a succession of cascades that want nothing but wood to render them very beautiful." At one period the only grocer's and baker's shop in the neighbourhood was found on the Mill premises.

Mark Norman tells, in his *Random Recollections,* of landing in Mill Bay in 1835, when the onward movement was beginning, and seeing only one solitary fisherman spreading his nets to dry on a huge and steep mound of red beach, which he has never since seen. The 'Chicken Pit' then was evidently common land, where the live stock of the residents was turned out. Further eastwards was a mound of earth or debris, raised eight or ten feet above the beach level, covered with grassy turf, and on it was a one-floored wattled shanty, inhabited by a man and his family. On this site the present Esplanade Hotel stands. Several prints, by Brannon and other artists, depict the scene. "A little further eastwards, perched on a continuation of the same mound, were two or three rough huts, in which the fishermen kept their gear, and in front some branches of trees were fixed, on which hung the bait for the crab pots." On the site of the present St. Augustine Villa stood a small boarded hut, put up and occupied by an old man named Cass—the ancestor, I believe, of a much respected townsman of to-day.

THE CRAB AND LOBSTER INN.

'The rural inn, beneath a bosky height,
In a warm corner nestles as of old." *The Fair Island.*[1]

The Crab and Lobster Inn vies with the Mill and Cove for antiquity. We have no means of ascertaining when, or by whom, the inn was first built. This appears to be quite legendary for at the commencement of the 19th century the house could boast of "a green old age" being well-known to the aged fishermen, whose memories carried them back to the middle of the previous century. At this time it was an extremely picturesque little inn with a thatched roof, situated by the wayside at the foot of the hill leading to Bonchurch, and having a fine uninterrupted sea view. A cascade of water, falling over the rocks from the heights above, collected into a small pool in front of the house, and being joined by the crystal stream running down by the side of Spring Hill, flowed imperceptibly away, and formed a striking feature in the rural surroundings.

The house was purchased, in 1793, from the Hill Trustees by a Mr. Mew, who substituted, for the thatch, the present modern slate roof. The inn is currently believed to be the oldest licensed house in the Island.

It was the chief house of call for the refreshment of casual pleasure-seekers when viewing the picturesque scenery in the neighbourhood during the summer months.

Vectis refers to it in 1830, "As one of two inns for the accommodation of visitors, the Crab and Lobster is very small in appearance, indeed, only a village public-house, but it is finely situated." The *Delineator*, a guide book published in 1834, says: "As a picture of neatness, the little public-house called the Crab and Lobster should not be passed by unnoticed."

A fair was held here on the 7th and 8th of May called "Crab Fair." There was no special reason, apparently, why this date was fixed upon; it was not the patron saint, St. Boniface's Day. It was the custom, from time immemorial, for pedlars and petty hawkers to bring their wares round from place to place and expose them for sale, attracting to the village the residents from other more distant localities, who took advantage of the fair to purchase their supplies, others took part in the "sports" in the shape of wrestling, single-stick, skittles, etc., which, doubtless, were the exciting features of the show. The games took place on the lawn in front of the inn. The lawn was surrounded by a quick-set hedge, and occupied, in part, with rustic summer seats, placed amidst arbours of shrubbery—arranged for the accommodation of the guests who preferred sitting out of doors in fine weather. The last Crab Fair was held in 1846.

Among the "ancient hosts" of the inn several familiar names are recorded; Barton, Cass, Barney Wild, Bush, and again Cass. Members of this family are still in possession, and have wisely preserved the old hostelry as a relic of the past, affording a striking contrast to the more modern structure erected by its side.

[1] Edmund Peel, canto v, f. 30.

The Crab and Lobster Inn, Ventnor.

(From an early photo by Valentine Blanchard.)

The following interesting account was sent to one of the London journals[1] :—

"'The Crab and Lobster' Inn, at Ventnor, has not only an unique name, but an uncommon history. When Charles the First was imprisoned, *c.* 1648, at Carisbrooke Castle, "in the fair island," he was occasionally, under an escort, allowed to indulge in walking tours across and round the island. While thus occupied, he one day entered 'The Crab and Lobster' and was there sketched by one of our artistic ancestors." The writer goes on to say, "This priceless drawing of Charles the First, as he appeared, was destroyed in the fire at the Pantechnicon, where it had been stored whilst the writer was away taking part in the Ashantee war of 1873." The Editor of the Periodical, in reply to an enquiry in 1910, for the name of the informant, or the authority for the statement, said, "I have no means of verifying the information—Mr. Barker, the correspondent, having died some ten years previously."

The Crab and Lobster is the only inn of that title mentioned in the *History of Sign Boards.*

Such were the primitive conditions that prevailed up to the year 1828. Shut in and isolated from the rest of the island by the high downs on the north, it is difficult to convey any idea as to the state of the roads or lanes during the earlier years. These were merely rough, uneven cart tracks, mainly used for agricultural purposes by the farmers on the estate.

The road coming westward from the village of Bonchurch passed in front of St. Boniface House, and by the green fields "Gallyhorn" and "Bishop's Acre," parallel with the foot of the down, and on by "Nine Stones" lane—the present St. Boniface Road—to the top of Spring Hill, where the road divided. The upper lane ascended the steep hill in front of the "New Inn" and led over "Sloven's Bush" inland to Wroxall. The lower road descended Spring Hill, named after the crystal spring at the top of the descent. This, after supplying the needs of the locality, flowed down by the roadside to join the larger stream by which the mill-pond was supplied. The road—a narrow, winding farm track—after passing the little "Crab Inn" and the Ventnor farmstead, continued on behind the farm premises through the valley to the village of Steephill, there joining the road track coming from St. Lawrence. The conjoined roads led up the "Old Steephill Shute" *viâ* "Gallow's," "Jalous," or "Gil's Cliff"—the several names by which the cliff has been known—and formed a junction with the other lane, *viâ* "Sloven's Bush," coming from the direction of Bonchurch. This was considered the main road, and was described, in 1794, "as a safe, though precipitous coach road that has been long established, and leading from the downs to Steephill; but the best and easiest of all the roads branches from the down immediately above Steephill, and descends to the village of Ventnor, where it joins the common road from Niton to Bonchurch." Both roads, according to modern notions, left much to be desired; the safety was very questionable, and their narrowness made it difficult for carriages to pass by each other.

[1] *The Licensing World*, June 20th, 1896.

THE LATER HISTORY.

Despite these various drawbacks St. Boniface House was occupied by a succession of visitors in delicate health. Mr. Joseph Hadfield—the father of the Undercliff—as he was often called, resided here from 1793 to 1808, afterwards going abroad and returning, in 1828, to another residence he had built in Bonchurch. During the winter of 1810–11 Sir John Awdry, and from that time up to the year 1820 Dr. Bowdler, resided here. In 1820 Sir Lawrence Peel, visiting his brother, Edmund Peel, the poet, then staying at St. Boniface House, writes :—" I found the Island was not easily reached, the sailing packets were formidable conveyances to bad sailors and invalids. A post-chaise from Ryde, with a boy to open the numerous gates, and a post-boy to drive, at 1/6 a mile, was expensive. There are no public conveyances in this part of the Island, no butcher's shop nearer than Brading, no daily post, and often letters delivered once a week by carrier. Unless very provident as to provisions we ran as much risk of dying from famine, by going to the back of the Island, as from consumption. This part of the Island in these later days is now peopled, provisioned, doctored, and done for like the rest of the United Kingdom. A man must be exacting who demands more beauty and more health than the Undercliff capital will show and afford him." Colonel Hewitt, a member of a well-known Island family, passed the winter of 1827–8 here. The following year Dr. Lempriere, writing to Dr.—afterwards Sir James Clark, from St. Boniface, extols " the striking advantage of the Undercliff climate," and says :—" We have about half a dozen gentlemen's houses to be let furnished, and, perhaps, as many smaller lodgings—there is plenty of land for building, but we have no bold speculators here." Mr. Benyon stayed at the house from 1830 to 1832.

Sir Andrew Crawford, a well-known personality in his time, writing to Sir James Clark, in 1830, says :—

" I think the choicest situations for a residence are between St. Lawrence Church and Steephill, but, unfortunately, the whole property belongs to Lord Yarborough, who cannot bear neighbours, and lets his farms and cottages on the express condition that they shall not take lodgers—or to Mr. Hambrough, who is building a beautiful Castle, and prizes his succession of terraces too much to consent to accommodate the public by altering the line of road so as to avoid the precipices of St. Lawrence and Steephill. I do not say how far they are to be blamed, but such is the fact. There have been three new houses built this winter by the side of the road between Ventnor and St. Boniface, tolerable enough lodgings they promise to be. The situation (Spring Hill) is pretty enough, though naked. I enclose one of Brannon's views, which gives a view of my present residence—the centre house of the picture was the Tap of the Hotel, and is now a lodging-house called Rock Cottage."

During the winter of 1832–3 the house was occupied for a few months by William Wilberforce, who, writing to Mr. Babington, says :—

" We removed to St. Boniface, one of the most delightful of all possible retirements. The most romantic scenery sheltered from every cold wind, and abounding in the most delightful walks, both sea and inland. Really it was an oasis in the desert."

St. Catherine's Church, Ventnor, 1837.

Serjeant Adams and his son, the Rev. William Adams, the author of *The Old Man's Home* and *The Shadow of the Cross,* stories known the "wide world o'er," occupied St. Boniface in 1841. In later years Lady Montague, the Earl of Sandwich, the Duchess of Bedford, and other celebrities resided in it. John Green, in his *Recollections,* refers to this last tenancy: "Those were fine times for many poor people, as the house was cleared of all the provisions every night."

Prior to 1830 the population of the village had varied little from the estimate of 77 given by Sir Richard Worsley half a century earlier. The purchase of the Steephill estate by Mr. Hambrough brought other changes with it. The mason engaged in building the mansion rented a small plot of land in the newly-made Belgrave Road, "abutting on the King's highway," as described in the lease, and there, in 1828, built "Cove Cottage, thus originating the new village of Ventnor. Other houses followed in rapid succession—Spring Cottage, with its thatched roof; High Bank, Seaweed, and Sea View, houses still retaining their early names.

The publication of Sir James Clark's work on *The Sanative Influence of Climate,* extolling the advantages the Undercliff possessed in the way of climate, etc., gave a great impetus to the further development of the little town, and houses sprang up in all directions. The foundation stone of St. Catherine's Church was laid in 1836, on a site presented by Mr. Charles Popham Hill. The building of the parsonage, with stone excavated from the site on which the Marine Hotel now stands, and the erection of the parochial schools, soon followed. Both church and schools were munificently endowed by Mr. Hambrough.

The want of a resident ground landlord had a disastrous effect in the laying out and development of the future town. A bankrupt lord of the manor sold the estate piecemeal, disposing of the various sites to persons of small means, without attaching any of the usual building covenants or restrictions. The rapacity of small owners did the rest. Houses were erected so close to the high road that no footpath was possible.

The difficulties of access, so much complained of in the earlier years, were gradually overcome. The original roads were widened, and the hilly upper road passing Hillside was lowered by the Highway Commissioners on three or four occasions. A new road, called the "Zig Zag," was constructed at the western end of the growing town, taking the place of the narrow, steep, and dangerous Steephill Shute.

In the year 1842 an interesting pamphlet, entitled *Suggestions for the construction of a Harbour of Shelter for yachts and other vessels at Ventnor,* was issued. It is there stated that "The great disadvantage under which the rising town labours arises from its difficulty of approach by water, etc., etc. In a place favoured as to climate as much as any place in the British Islands a town has been built; but in what manner?" The writer further states: "In the year 1839, 7,776 carriages and cars passed through St. Lawrence between April 1st and September 30th.

More invalids entered Ventnor daily than could find apartments, and every person who could command a few pounds turned his attention to building; small detached cottages sprang up without order in every direction, without knowledge as to the requirements of the higher classes. Stern necessity, every season, filled the smallest cabin with tenants. Despite the improvement in the approaches to the town, there is a perpendicular rise of three hundred feet within three-quarters of a mile, and at the "White Shute," Bonchurch, in one hundred yards there is a perpendicular rise of fifty feet! Why not then seek the natural remedy?" The writer says: "I could not witness the rough preparations made for the disembarkation of Her Majesty in Bonchurch Bay without much indignation at the supineness of those contented with merely wishing they could have a landing place." In conclusion the writer adds: "Build a pier and convert a most irregular, straggling, unpaved, unlighted, dull and ill-supplied village into an important town with one of the finest bathing places in England."

With reference to the last-mentioned inducement to visitors to flock here, "Old John Green," in his reminiscences, refers to the bathing as follows:—"I was engaged to assist the person who had a bathing machine, and the first that was ever at Mill Bay, or anywhere between that and Ryde, so that I knew the originality of the bathing system here before Mr. Bull (who claims it) came to Ventnor to dwell. Mr. Morgan, a shoemaker, had the original bathing machine and employed me to assist, and we had some of the Bedford family bathing daily in 1813–14 when weather permitted."

In 1842 the following notice appears in one of the Guide Books of that date:—

"Stage coaches are started early this season to run to the Back of the Island, and the hours so arranged that one half of the island may be toured the same day."

In the course of the following year a "Public Meeting of Inhabitant Householders and Residents" was convened and held at the Ventnor Hotel, January, 1843, and the following resolutions were passed:—

1st. That this Meeting, finding that Ventnor has not attained that reputation as a Watering Place and resort for Invalids which might be expected from the acknowledged salubrity of its air, mildness of its climate, and other local advantages, views with much concern the general want of accommodation for the Residents and of security for their property; and, being fully persuaded that the future prosperity of Ventnor mainly depends upon the accommodation and amusement given to its visitors, is deeply convinced of the necessity of an active co-operation by all persons interested therein to remedy the existing evils, and as far as possible to render this place (so remarkable for its natural advantages) a pleasant and agreeable resort for the Invalid and occasional Visitor.

Proposed by Mr. Parkes, seconded by Mr. F. Jones, and passed unanimously.

2nd. That this Meeting considers the most effectual remedy to be by the establishment of a Local Police, and the general improvement of the roads and footways; and, that for these and other beneficial purposes an annual sum of money be raised from the Inhabitants and Owners of Property in Ventnor, to be placed at the disposal of a Committee.

Proposed by Mr. James Newman, seconded by Mr. Cundell, and passed unanimously.

3rd. That, inasmuch as Ventnor has not the benefit and the powers of a Local Act of Parliament, it is the opinion of this Meeting, that the most easy and equitable mode of raising such annual sum of money is, by a voluntary rate upon property within the district of Ventnor, and founded upon the Poor Assessment.

Proposed by Mr. Henderson, and seconded by Mr. H. W. Drewe.

4th. That this rate do not exceed for the present year, sixpence in the pound, to be paid by each person in the proportion of his Assessment to the Poor Rate; which amount when collected, together with the aid of Subscriptions from the Residents and Owners of property, will, it is expected, be adequate to maintain two efficient Policemen, alter and improve the Roads and Footways, and generally to make such other improvements as may be deemed necessary by the Committee.

Proposed by way of Amendment by Mr. Parkes, and seconded by Mr. Hartley.

That the Rate be One Shilling in the Pound instead of Sixpence.

The Amendment was carried by a large majority.

Proposed by Mr. Hartley, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, and carried unanimously.

5th. That this Meeting seeing the necessity of an immediate commencement, do hereby agree, that a Rate of Sixpence in the Pound be collected forthwith, and the remaining Sixpence in the month of August next.

Proposed by Mr. Parkes, seconded by Mr. Spary, and carried *nem. con.*

6th. That a Committee consisting of nine persons be appointed to superintend the Police, the collecting and disbursement of the moneys, and to carry out the general objects of the present Meeting, and that five be a quorum.

Proposed by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. H. Wicker, and carried *nem. con.*

7th. That the Committee appointed for the present year be Mr. Hartley, Mr. Cundell, Mr. A. J. Drewe, Dr. Martin, Mr. J. B. Martin, Mr. Henderson, Mr. Page, Mr. Newman, and Mr. Roper, jun.; and that the first Meeting of the Committee for the dispatch of business be held at the Ventnor Hotel, on Monday next, January 9th, at 7 o'clock p.m.

Proposed by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Roper, sen., and carried *nem. con.*

8th. That the services rendered by the Committee and all appointed officers be gratuitous: that Mr. H. W. Drewe be requested to act as Secretary, and Mr. A. J. Drewe, as Treasurer.

In accordance with the resolutions passed at the meeting, the Committee met for the transaction of business, and soon realised that with such limited means and no compulsory powers no active steps could be taken. At the third meeting of the Committee a notice to the following effect was issued:—

In pursuance of a Resolution passed at a Meeting of the Ventnor Improvement Committee, held Feb. 1st, a Public Meeting of the Ratepayers within the district of Ventnor, will be held at the Ventnor Hotel, on Thursday, March 2nd, 1843, at Three o'clock p.m. precisely, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of an application to Parliament in the ensuing Session for *an Act for "Paving, Lighting, Watching, Cleansing, and otherwise improving the Town of Ventnor in the Isle of Wight, and for establishing a Market therein."*

The Committee beg leave to call the attention of the Ratepayers to the above, and to express an earnest hope, that the *importance of the subject will ensure a full attendance.*

J. B. Martin,

Chairman of the Ventnor Improvement Committee.

The "Bill for an Act" was opposed, and the expenses incurred in obtaining it, in the end, amounted to three thousand pounds, ten times the sum usually expended. This unforeseen outlay sorely crippled the resources and retarded the progress of the town for many years. The Town Commissioners appointed a constable, a surveyor, a waywarden, etc.; paid the costs for obtaining the Act, and the "beadle's" clothing was ordered.

In 1847 the population had risen to 2,070, and the Improvement Commissioners felt themselves warranted in constructing an Esplanade. This was carried out at a surprisingly small expenditure, and other much needed improvements followed.

The suggestions contained in the pamphlet of 1842, for improving the "Cove" and rendering it more accessible had not been lost sight of, for we find that definite steps were taken the following year to carry them into effect.

At a Public Meeting of the Inhabitants of Ventnor, in the Isle of Wight, convened by Public Notice, and held at the Ventnor Hotel, on Friday, the 14th day of July, 1843. John B. Martin, Esq., in the Chair.

Proposed by Mr. Lankester, seconded by Mr. Cundell, and carried unanimously.

1st. That this Meeting being fully sensible of the great advantages to be derived from the clearing of Rocks on the Shore at Ventnor Cove, for the purpose of forming a Landing Place for Passengers and general Merchandise, is convinced of the practicability of the undertaking, as shown by the Plans kindly furnished by Mr. Saxby; and authorises an application to be made, on the part of this Meeting, to the Lords of the Admiralty, for their permission to remove the Rocks at present obstructing the Navigation at Ventnor Cove, to place proper mooring chains and other conveniences near the Cove, and also to pile Rocks and other materials, for the purpose of forming a Breakwater to the westward of the aforesaid Cove, and thereby secure a safe Haven.

Proposed by Mr. A. J. Drewe, seconded by Captain Hadfield, and carried unanimously.

2nd. That an application be made to the Trustees of Charles Popham Hill, Esquire, for their sanction to the above undertaking, as far as their interests are concerned.

Proposed by Mr. Bidgood, seconded by Mr. Cooper, and carried unanimously.

3rd. That this meeting considers it advisable forthwith to carry out the clearing of the Rocks, and the formation of the Western Breakwater, and other improvements, as shown in Plan No. 2, as far as the funds collected will admit, and that contracts be immediately entered into for that purpose.

Proposed by Mr. B. Bull, seconded by Mr. Mitchell, and carried unanimously.

4th. That the said Plan No. 2 be carried into effect, the works to be superintended, and the monies expended by a Committee appointed at this Meeting. That the following Gentlemen do compose such Committee, and have full power to act as they deem best for the objects of the Meeting, and to add to their number:—Mr. Bidgood, Mr. A. J. Drewe, Mr. Keatley, Mr. Page, Mr. Cundell, Mr. Westwood, and Mr. William Bull, three to form a quorum.

These several Committees were the forerunners of a thousand and one others which have been formed since to advance local interests, but the permanent outcome to-day appears to be practically nil.

That the efforts of the leading spirits of the little town were not purely local and selfish is shown by the steps that were taken by the

local residents of that day to promote the foundation of the Isle of Wight Infirmary at Ryde. Among the gentlemen who were largely instrumental in initiating the movement were the following local residents :—The Hon. Dudley Pelham, Admiral Swinburne, Albert Hambrough, Dr. and Mr. J. B. Martin. These gentlemen attended a meeting at Newport early in 1847, convened for the purpose of carrying the scheme into effect, and took a prominent part in the proceedings.

Further progress in the onward growth of the township is marked by the establishment of a "Local Press." In February, 1847, the first number of the *Ventnor Diamond* newspaper was issued, price 2*d*. In its columns sundry suggestions of a very varied nature are made, *e.g.*, the formation of a "Society for Mutual Improvement and the advancement of Literature and Science," is advocated, a forerunner of the later University Extension movement and the like. "A parish meeting, to be held at Newchurch," is summoned, and a "National Fast Day" announced, with the closing of shops—appropriate religious services to be held and collections made "for the relief of the distressed poor in Ireland."

The formation of the Ventnor Gas Company was initiated by statutory notice being given in the Press columns, and, at a subsequent meeting, it was resolved "That the introducing of gas would be a great public benefit." The late Mr. John Burt was appointed secretary, an office he held for the next half century. Much inconvenience arising from local postal arrangements was complained of. Ventnor had hitherto been a branch office of the Newport centre, but after April, 1847, this disadvantage was removed, and the little rising town became a postal centre, having a daily mail, arriving at seven a.m. with a departure outwards at six p.m.

The second number of the newspaper also contained varied, if not important information. The friends of Voluntary Education had a tea meeting at the Independent Chapel, and then, as now—sixty years later—"petitions against the system of National Education proposed by Government were adopted." Then, as now, "the cruelty practised upon the donkey" is dilated upon; "Were such cruelties practised in London," says the writer, "we should have the pleasure of seeing half the beauty and youth of Ventnor arraigned at the bar of the police-courts for transgressing the law in this particular." In a list of the names of firms advertising their wares in its columns is that of Redfern—the early commencement of a business which developed later into the one now known the wide world o'er.

Another notice, convening a meeting, "to be held at Newport, dated December 7th, 1852," was to the following effect :—

Being convinced that it is of essential importance to the interests of the Isle of Wight, that immediate steps should be adopted to prevent the formation of Railways in the Island, we earnestly request you to attend a meeting, to consider and adopt measures by which the further progress of the scheme may be at once effectually checked. The Earl of Yarborough and other influential gentlemen have signified their intention of attending.

The notice is signed by some half dozen gentlemen, amongst them being the following Undercliff residents :—The Earl of Yarborough, Mr. John Hambrough and his son Mr. Albert Hambrough, etc. The meeting was very largely attended, an overflow meeting being held opposite the Bugle Hotel. With other speakers, Sir Richard Simeon strongly supported the resolution to oppose, and this was carried by a very large majority.

The opposition of the influential landowners to the scheme proved fatal to the proposed Bill, which was rejected on the second reading. To the results of this unfortunate opposition may be traced the ill-regulated and expensive railway services the Island groans under, up to this present day.

A further plan of Messrs. Birkingshaw and Conybeare, "to connect all the towns in the centre and east side of the Island, twenty-two miles in length, and accommodating four-fifths of the population," was rejected. This line would have proceeded from Ventnor to Sandown, and thence, *via* Newchurch, to Newport, leaving Brading on the right. The capital proposed for the undertaking was £180,000.

The passengers conveyed in omnibuses and coaches between Ventnor and Ryde in 1851 was estimated to be 76,848. The number of these conveyances running between the two places during the summer months, exclusive of passenger vans, was estimated at ten per diem.

The population, estimated in 1831 to be 1,398, had risen in 1851 to 3,578, to 4,841 in 1871, and to 6,090 in 1891. The rateable value in 1879 was £30,320, and in 1909 had increased to £40,873.

Messrs. Livesay and Saunders, civil engineers, in 1859, brought out the Isle of Wight Railway and Telegraph Company, with a proposed capital of £75,000. The report says :—

> This inconsiderable sum has, after careful computation, been found a sufficient amount of capital for the purpose of the undertaking if economically conducted, upon which amount the traffic will yield a dividend considerably exceeding five per cent.

And so the contest went on, one project was thrown out because the railway was to be carried through "The Landslip," and in order to save a parliamentary session another scheme was hurriedly devised. The proposed line was diverted, and reached Ventnor, *viâ* Wroxall, through a long and expensive tunnel, instead of by the more obvious and natural route along the open valley.

It is stated that an influentially signed petition from the inhabitants of Ventnor was drawn up against the Bill, and duly presented, "to prevent the tunnel being made, as calculated to seriously interfere with the existing climatic conditions."

In the year 1863 another attempt was made to construct a harbour on this part of the coast. The preamble to the Bill says :—

> Whereas the Making and Maintenance of a Harbour, Piers, Warehouses and other works, etc., for the Reception and Loading or Discharge of Shipping would be of great public advantage etc., etc.

The capital proposed was £20,000, in ten pound shares, but it is estimated that at least two and a half times this sum was expended before the work was completed. The names of the promoters included those of Fleming, Atherley, Coape, Martin, Stephen Knight, G. M. Burt, and others. The Act was obtained and the works carried out, and for a time steamers coming from Littlehampton and other places landed passengers and merchandise at the pier. The designs, however, were faulty, and proved to be ill-adapted for this exposed coast; the sea quickly made havoc of the light, timber built structure, and within a brief period the property was rendered practically useless, and in great part destroyed.

Had the disaster ended here, no further remarks would have been called for, but the construction of the solid arms of the pier had unfortunately involved the removal of the point of land known as "Collins Point." This promontory of land jutted out some distance into the sea and embayed the coast, thus retaining the shingly beach, and screening the Esplanade from the easterly winds. The removal of this natural rocky groyne allowed the shingle—up till now present in thousands of tons, rising to the level of the Esplanade and extending out seawards as far as the "Lion rock"—to be carried by westerly winds and currents round Collins Point never to return.

The beach soon became denuded of the shingle and with a prevalence of strong westerly gales, the tidal waves six to eight feet high rolled in and undermined the esplanade wall. The gravest fears were soon entertained as to the safety of the property along the sea front. To prevent the scour causing further mischief, a wooden groyne was constructed in front of the Esplanade Hotel, and this for a time arrested the destructive changes. For some reason, one half of the structure was removed, and this step, together with a series of disastrous westerly gales, caused the process of denudation of the foreshore to be again renewed. The soft "blue slipper" soon became exposed and eroded, and the land along the sea front began to slip.

A ruinous, exhaustive, and to all intents fruitless expenditure of money followed. A series of buttresses and other defensive sea-works were hurriedly devised and carried out, but had little apparent beneficial effect in checking the destructive changes that were taking place. In 1874 the conditions became so grave that a Government inquiry was held, presided over by Major Tulloch, R.E. After hearing the local evidence, the replacement of Collins Point, in the form of a solid groyne, was directed. This structure, being the key of the position, was intended to arrest the further loss of shingle, and more especially to aid in collecting fresh material coming westwards, to replace the beach that was now irretrievably lost. Three other intermediate open timber groynes to be constructed in the western bay were ordered, the object in view being to more evenly distribute the material over the sea front and indirectly to assist the Collins Point groyne in retaining the shingle.

In the course of twenty years Major Tulloch's forecast has been amply verified, and the shingly beach is now rapidly being replaced.

A heavy and unproductive expenditure, amounting to over £6,000, was incurred during the years 1873–4–5, in purchasing shore rights and in extending the Esplanade further to the eastward. This heavy outlay mortgaged the town's financial assets for years to come.

Notwithstanding this large capital outlay, the Urban Council wisely assented to a very important and influentially signed memorial, emanating from the ratepayers, asking that a part of the Hambrough Estate, now known as the Ventnor Park, might be taken over by the Council on a long lease. In due time a Committee of the Board proceeded to lay out the grounds as recreation grounds. These are much frequented by all sections of the public.

Despite the several failures already recorded, the desirability of providing a landing place for passenger and other traffic had not been lost sight of, and it was quite in accordance with local wishes that a company was formed to acquire the shore rights from the old company.

A light, open structure, supported on iron columns, offering very little resistance to the sea, was erected. If the matter had rested there all might have been well, but in order to protect the head of the pier, and to serve as a landing stage for berthing steamers, a timber structure was afterwards added. Economical considerations, owing to the lack of monetary support, admitted of a very limited outlay being made on this important section of the scheme, which thus weakened, was intrinsically unsuited in other respects for the object in view. Little regret—except for those financially interested in the company—was therefore felt when the timber structure was carried away in one of the early gales of that season. Unfortunately a large section of the iron structure was wrecked at the same time.

The Directorate was afterwards strengthened, and, with increased capital, made a praiseworthy effort to resuscitate the scheme on a larger scale. The great storm of December, 1881, occurred a few weeks after the structure was finished and completely wrecked the undertaking. A few hours sufficed to destroy the larger half of the structure, involving the shareholders in a loss of several thousand pounds, and the company in irretrievable financial ruin.

The Town Council, yielding to public pressure, came to the rescue, and purchasing, for the sum of £2,600, all the rights of the Pier Company, proceeded to reorganise the undertaking. After an open public competition, the handsome designs for Pier and Landing Stage of Mr. Theodore R. Saunders, C.E., were selected and the work was subsequently carried out in its entirety under that gentleman's supervision, at an outlay of £12,700.

A large deficit, over and above the traffic receipts, annually recurs on the pier account, but the many advantages it confers on the public at large indirectly compensates for the monetary deficiency.

In 1888 "The Ventnor and Southsea Steam Packet Company" came into existence, to supply the much needed water communication with the

By kind permission of] Ventnor, from the Pier, 1910. [Mate & Co.

mainland during the summer months. The local financial support accorded to the undertaking was on a very limited scale, many of the promised subscribers failing to pay their subscriptions. In consequence, the purchase of an up-to-date boat with adequate steam power was out of the question. Despite the most praiseworthy and unremitting efforts, a series of unavoidable mishaps occurred, which still further crippled the undertaking, and though the management persevered in the face of many disappointments and overcame many of the initial defects, the Company had to succumb, after several years' existence, to the competition of more powerful boats, placed on the service by companies hailing from the mainland. Of late years the steam-boat accommodation provided for the visitors, during the summer months, leaves little to be desired, and many thousands utilise this enjoyable and attractive means of conveyance by steamer to visit the locality and to feast their eyes on the natural beauties of the district.

These various efforts have been chronicled in order to show there was no lack of public spirit amongst the residents in earlier days, to advance, in every possible way, the prosperity of the district.

THE GENERAL ASPECTS, ETC.

The general appearance of the town, viewed a short distance from the shore, is very picturesque. The houses, placed irregularly, tier above tier, rising from the water's edge, and clustering round the base of the Downs, are very striking.

The construction of the pier, and the extension eastwards of the esplanade, gives a character to the sea front, and since the tide recedes but a short distance from the shore, leaving a beach of fine shingle and sand, with an absence of mud even at lowest spring tides, both pier and esplanade offer a delightful marine promenade to all classes.

With the exception of the houses immediately abutting on the esplanade, it will be noticed that all the residential and other buildings are situated, at least, one hundred feet above the sea level. From each end of the esplanade streets rise to the middle terrace, which is occupied by the main thoroughfare, running eastwards along the High Street to Bonchurch, and westwards along the Undercliff to St. Lawrence and Niton. The terraced formation in the other parts of the town offer a variety of situations at different elevations, and thus a choice can be made to meet the varying wants of different classes of visitors. Leading to Bonchurch, facing the sea and commanding extensive views of the coast line, are the Dudley and Devonshire Terraces. Still nearer to Bonchurch, facing south and west, is Madeira Road with its terrace of semi-detached houses. These are convenient from the houses having been built on the level. Close under the shelter of St. Boniface Down, having a somewhat more bracing aspect, stands St. Boniface Terrace (220 feet), vieing in its elevation with South Grove Terrace, placed nearer to the centre of the town and some thirty feet higher, yet at this elevation well sheltered from boisterous winds. In close proximity is the railway

terminus (290 feet), and here a very steep but fairly convenient path gives access to the summit of the Down. The main road leads past the railway station, ascending to an elevation of 420 feet, before merging in the high road leading inland to Wroxall and the centre of the Island.

It still remains for me to refer to what has been a matter of wonderment to many, that whilst thousands of pounds of public and private money seems to have been lavishly spent on the sea front, the very opposite procedure appears to have been followed in developing the great natural attractions the district possesses in other directions.

A few years since a strong local feeling was aroused at the large amount of capital Ventnor was allowing to lie dormant—since both resident and visitor were alike debarred not only from enjoying the magnificent scenery, but also from the healthful recreation afforded by walks over the Downs. Application was made to Parliament and a Bill obtained, enabling the Urban District Council to make roads giving access to the Downs, but the scheme perished at its inception. It remains for a future generation to develop this healthful exercising ground, and to increase the accessibility by convenient paths and carriage roads. The money, to open up the higher levels by means of suitable roads affording access to the downs, has been either grudgingly given or has been altogether withheld.

Such was obviously the case with the construction of the road to Whitwell along the upper cliff, affording, by an easy gradient, improved communication with the centre of the island. The scheme, largely owing to the lack of pecuniary support, took fifteen years from the time of its first inception in 1877 to its final completion in 1892, ere it was *un fait accompli*. It was entirely owing to the unflagging energy and dogged perseverance of the late Mr. Martin that the road project was eventually carried through. The advantages conferred by the construction of the road on the neighbourhood at large are now only too apparent, but at the time when the subject was first broached the scheme met with the most uncompromising opposition, shown in a variety of ways, by sundry narrow-minded individuals.

The improvement was effected at a surprisingly small cost, for the landowners—the Hon. Evelyn Pelham and Mr. Dudley Hambrough—generously gave the land required for the purpose, the monetary outlay being met by a grant of £500 from the Highway Commissioners, an equal sum being raised by public subscription (towards this amount the late Mr. Spindler contributed £200), whilst the balance was defrayed from the local rates.

Another scheme which fell through for want of opportune encouragement was formulated in the year 1890, when the desirability of having some provision in the shape of a lift or light railway, to convey passengers from the shore to the railway station, and thence to the summit of the downs, was brought forward by Mr. Blakesley. The capital outlay required for structural work was estimated at £10,000, and the remunerative character of the investment, based on the traffic,

was so obvious, that the promoter, Mr. Blakesley, was prepared to obtain the capital required from investors outside the local area.

His efforts, however, were rendered futile by the short-sighted opposition of some parties, and the unreasonable amount demanded as compensation by others, who, as Mr. Blakesley expressed it, "evidently regarded the freehold of their property in the light of a small gold mine." The locality thus lost this much-needed boon which would have been so highly appreciated and popular with all classes staying here during the summer months. In connection with this subject it was stated that the railway traffic, in the shape of tickets to Ventnor in 1879, was 210,000; and in 1889, 236,980 and this estimate furnished the basis on which the percentage return on the capital expenditure was mainly based.

Application was subsequently made, on two occasions, by the Urban authority to the Light Railway Commissioners, for powers to construct a similar railway, and though plans were favourably entertained, unsurmountable difficulties were raised in several quarters, with the result that locomotive provision of this kind has been deferred, it may be hoped, only to the very near future.

THE SANITARY ASPECTS.

Some remarks devoted to the sanitary condition of the town as a health resort would seem called for.

The separation of the district from the ancient parish of Newchurch—an arrangement which had existed for eight or more centuries—took place in 1867, and the new parish of Ventnor was constituted.

Immediate steps were taken by the local authority to improve the general sewerage arrangements of the district, a large loan (one of four), required for the purpose of main drainage, being effected in 1867.

Under "The Public Health Act, 35–36 Vict. c. 79," the parish became an Urban Sanitary Authority. Probably from not fully understanding the scope and powers of this Act, the local authority failed to carry into effect some of the more important provisions, with the result that an article bearing on local sanitary questions appeared in the *Sanitary Record* for December, 1875. The facts there referred to foreshadowed the later advent of Dr. Ballard—the Local Government Inspector—to the Island in the spring of 1880. Special attention was called in his report "On the Sanitary Condition and Administration of the Isle of Wight," to the condition of the drainage and water supply of Ventnor. The shortcomings were so clearly placed before the Urban Authority that immediate steps were taken to remedy the ills complained of. The main drainage was thoroughly examined, defects permanently remedied, and where necessary a new sewer was laid down. A house to house inspection by the Medical Officer and the Inspector of Nuisances was carried out, a record being kept of each house, compulsory action being taken by the Authority to compel proper connection with the main drainage. The question of the water supply was inquired into, and all private wells were closed.

The result of the action thus taken was soon evident from the absence of those diseases usually attributed to the effects of sewer gas. The future of the town, as far as sanitary arrangements are concerned, may be said to have been placed on a most satisfactory footing.

In consequence of the report, at the suggestion of Mr. J. B. Martin, the members of the medical profession practising in the district formed themselves into a Sanitary Medical Association, with a view of supporting the Local Authority in removing the evils complained of. Anticipating the advent of the Infectious Diseases Notification Act of later date, the members of the Association severally undertook to report cases of infectious disease occurring in their practice. In 1880 the Association memorialised the Local Government Board, asking "for the appointment of a competent Medical Officer of Health for the whole Island with such salary as will enable him to devote his time solely to the duties of his office."

From time to time, as necessity occasioned, members of the Association have taken active steps to point out, and to aid in the removal of, any sanitary defects that were likely to have an injurious effect upon the public health. The adoption of the "Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890," and the "Infectious Diseases Notification Act," were moved by members of the Association at ordinary meetings of the Local Board. The provision of hospital accommodation for infectious diseases was also warmly advocated. An active and successful part was taken by the Association in opposing, on public grounds, a proposal to erect the buildings on a site at Hale Common, distant six or eight miles from the district it was intended to serve. It was felt that, to be useful, such an institution must be conveniently placed for the patients and their friends, otherwise, in the absence of compulsory powers, few infected persons, and more especially so in the case of children, would take advantage of the hospital accommodation.

As soon as the County Council for the Isle of Wight had the necessary legal powers an application was made by the Urban Authority, in accordance with the terms of the Act of 1893, that a joint Hospital District might be formed, to comprise the rural parishes of Bonchurch, Whitwell, St. Lawrence, Niton, in conjunction with the Urban district of Ventnor. After due inquiry by the County Council, an order was made, and on appeal by the Rural District Council to the Local Government Board, the order was successfully upheld.

After considerable delay, arising from difficulties in obtaining a site, the building was erected at Lowtherville, on the northern boundary of the parish, and promises, from a hygienic point of view, to fully bear out the contention which animated the Medical Association in objecting to the site first chosen, on account of its distance from the locality, however eligible the site might have been in other respects.

At an earlier date—in 1884—the faulty provision made for the necessary sanitary arrangements in connection with the erection of a large number of small tenements at Lowtherville, a district then under the jurisdiction

of the Rural District Council, was brought by the Medical Sanitary Association before the Board of Guardians, but without obtaining redress, the authority replying through the clerk that: "having regard to the difficulty of dealing with the subject under the provisions of the Public Health Act, as also from a legal point of view, the Board are not prepared to take any action in the matter." In order to safeguard the sanitary interests of the town, the Lowtherville district, comprising 242 acres, was annexed in 1894, and a complete system of main and house drainage effected.

In an action taken by the Urban authority against the Water Company, *re* the supply of water required for the regular and efficient flushing of the town sewers, the Local Council had the strenuous support of the Association, and the result of the action so taken is seen in the absence of the evils usually attributed to the influence of sewer gas.

The following return of the number of cases of zymotic disease registered in the period 1900-9, has been furnished by Dr. Russell Woodfort, the Medical Officer of Health for the district, the estimated population being 6,000, and the number of inhabited houses 1,161

TABLE I.

Year	Enteric Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas
1900	3	2	—
1901	3	1	2
1902	3	—	2
1903	4	—	3
1904	1	1	—
1905	—	—	—
1906	1	1	—
1907	—	5	1
1908	3	1	3
1909	2	2	8

A comparative statement of Birth and Death Rate, etc., for the same period, 1900-9:—

TABLE II.

Comparative Statement of Birth and Death Rate, etc., for the same period, 1900–9.

	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
Total Births	131	98	90	79	105	80	99	90	90	92
Total Deaths	109	99	104	95	107	86	89	91	85	94
Death Rate, per 1000 ...	16.0	16.8	17.7	16.1	18.1	14.5	15.3	15.8	14.1	15.2
Deaths of Residents only	64	59	55	49	68	59	54	59	58	70
Corrected Death Rate, per 1000	9.4	10.0	9.4	8.3	11.5	9.9	9.3	10.3	9.66	11.57

To complete the many natural advantages the town possesses, there is an abundant, indeed, a profuse, supply of water of excellent character for all sanitary and hygienic purposes.

The source of the water supply is to be found in the chalk downs behind the town. Chalk is very tenacious of water, and absorbs one-ninth to one-twelfth of its weight. A cubic foot of chalk absorbs two gallons of rain-water. The Downs constitute magnificent reservoirs in which vast volumes of water are stored and kept pure and cool.

Every million gallons of water taken from the chalk carries with it, in solution, a ton and a quarter of the chalk through which it has percolated, and makes room for an additional storage of one hundred and ten gallons.

In the early years a pretty feature, already referred to, was furnished by the springs of water, seen freely issuing from the foot of the down and forming little streamlets every here and there. In addition to these sources of supply, there is a sufficiency of water furnished by a spring, which was tapped on the north end in driving the railway tunnel through the down. The flow was so abundant as to give the engineers much trouble in dealing with it at the time.

The supply from so deep a spring is remarkable for its purity as well as for its abundance; and being delivered at so high a level, the town, so far as Ventnor is concerned, is supplied without the necessity of lifting power. For the needs of Bonchurch and the upper levels, it is raised to a large reservoir on the side of the down, and thence distributed as required.

The "composition of the water has remained unaltered during the course of many years, proving that the supply is quite free from variable surface water thus affording ample security from impurity and pollution."[1] It is also a pleasant water "of excellent quality and extraordinary purity, agreeable as a beverage,"[1] and the supply is practically unlimited. The surplus may be seen at all hours of the day flowing away over the cascade and through the ornamental public gardens on its way to the sea, and thus adding to the scenic attractions of the eastern esplanade. The volume of water daily flowing away is estimated to be 1,250,000 gallons during the winter months.

As far as the public sanitary arrangements are concerned, the town may very safely be said to be in a perfectly satisfactory condition. With the experience of the past, it is to be hoped that the active supervision shown in "house to house visitation" by the Medical Officer of Health and the Inspector of Nuisances, and the periodical flushing of the main drains, etc., which have been attended with such markedly good results, may be continued in the interests of the town.

It is not my intention to enter at length into the details connected with the later developments of the town, since the nature of these will readily occur to the residents, *e.g.* :—

The purchase of the Assembly Rooms.

The installation of the electric light.

The purchase of the east and west cliff frontages, with the recreation grounds.

The purchase and laying out of the triangular piece of ground facing the pier, improving the appearance of this part of the foreshore.

These several improvements are largely owing to the wise initiative of the Urban Council, but until the difficulties and the delay connected with the water crossing have been surmounted, either by means of a

[1] Otto Hehner, *Report Urban District Council.*

tunnel under the Solent or by improved steamboat service, and the antiquated railway system has been modernised, the Undercliff district as a whole, despite the undoubted climatic advantages the locality possesses, cannot hope to attain that degree of prosperity and usefulness to which its claims so justly entitle it.

Table of Heights in feet of principal streets in Ventnor above mean sea level.

	Feet		Feet
Albert Street	100	Lowtherville	400 to 450
Alexandra Gardens ...	100 to 125	Madeira Road	120 to 150
Alpine Road ...	120 to 190	Newport Road	280 to 400
Belgrave Road	120 to 150	Park Avenue	130 to 140
Church Street	107 to 125	St. Boniface Road ...	209
Devonshire Terrace ...	130	St. Catherine's Street ...	110 to 120
Dudley Road	130	Southgrove Road ...	180 to 280
Gil's Cliff Road ...	350 to 400	Trinity Road	150 to 170
Hambrough Road ...	100 to 130	Victoria Street	130
High Street	110 to 160	The Zigzag	150 to 350

OF THE "MANOR OF WROXALL."

The name occurs in the middle ages under the name "*Warochesselle*" and the manor is so entered in the Domesday survey. According to Mr. Shore, the name is derived from an Anglo-Saxon word "*ceosel,*" gravel, though the derivation of the name has been obscured by the modern spelling.[1]

The entry in Domesday Book runs thus :—

"Warochesselle tenet rex. Gueda comitissa tenuit, de Godwino comite, in alodium. Tunc geldavit pro 5 hidis. Modo pro 2 hidis et dimidia. Terra est 10 carucatæ. In dominio sunt 4 carucatæ; et 10 villani et 24 bordarii cum 7 carucatis. Ibi 17 servi, et 2 molini de 20 solidis, et 3 acræ prati. Silva de uno porco. T.R.E. valebat 27 libras, et post, et modo, 20 libras. Tamen reddit 22 libras."[2]

A translation is given in italics at the commencement of the several paragraphs, with explanatory annotations :—"*The King holds Warochesselle. The countess Gueda held it of earl Godwin, as an alod.*"—Allodial tenure is described by the latest writer on the subject "as a family tenure found existing in some manors in the Isle of Wight, in which one of the family held the land and had certain rights which he transmitted to his descendants. The tenure is specially characteristic of Norway, though not confined to that country, and furnishes a link in the chain of evidence connecting the island settlers with the Jutes, or other people of a Northern race."[3]

The countess Gytha, or Gueda, was the wife of the great Saxon earl, and this estate may have been bestowed as a marriage portion, furnishing one of the few instances of land being held by a woman before the Conquest.

After the battle of Hastings, the manor, in right of conquest, reverted

[1] *Proc. H. F. C.*, vol. iii, p. 245.
[2] Warner, *Domesday Book*, Hamp., p. 36.
[3] Shore, *Origin of the Anglo-Saxon Race*, p. 219.

to the King, and was bestowed by him on his kinsman William Fitz Osbern, "his earliest and dearest friend." In the course of a few short years the estate again reverted to the crown, through the forfeiture, by treason, of Roger earl of Hereford, the son and successor of William Fitz Osbern, in 1075. When the Domesday Survey was made, in 1086, the manor was in the king's hand.

"It then paid geld for 5 hides."—The Domesday Record begins with the number of hides at which the whole manor is rated according to ancient assessment. The basis seems to have been the number of plough teams *"carucæ"* at the time it was made, and furnishes here an instance of the primitive system of assessing manors in multiples of the unit five.

"But now it is assessed at 2½ hides."—No evidence is forthcoming to show if the reduction was an act of special favour by the Crown, but it is probable—as instanced in the case of Bonchurch—that all the manors held by the Godwin family had this favour extended to them.

"There is land for 10 ploughs."—It was customary at that time to describe the actual extent of the manorial estate by the number of plough teams. In accordance with the general custom before, and at the time of Edward the Confessor, all Saxon manors were divided up into "the lord's demesne," and into land held "in villenage." This arrangement was almost universal, so that further information is added.

"In demesne are 4 ploughs; and (there are) 10 villeins and 24 bordars with 7 ploughs."—The tenants on all Saxon manors were divided into two classes, (*a*) the villeins and (*b*) the bordarii. The villeins were farmers having stock and holding yardlands (30 acres) proportionate to the number of oxen contributed by them to the cultivation of the lord's demesne lands. The bordarii had a small allotment of land for their own use, with a cottage upon it, for which they paid in produce or service of some kind. A third class, the servi, were little better than slaves.

"There are 17 servi and 2 mills worth 20 shillings."—The mills were in every case the property of the lord of the manor, and his tenants were not permitted to grind their corn at any other mill. Hillier points out "That no doubt some small estimate may be formed of the extent of the population of the manors to which they belonged, and that of the immediate vicinity, by observing the amount at which their value or tax is fixed."[1] Thirty-four mills are mentioned in Domesday Book as then existing in the Island, and seven of these were located at Shide, near Newport, the rental of the Wroxall mills being, with one exception, at Mottiston, the highest in the list.

Another of the advantages possessed by the manor was in having "forest rights." The record states :—*"There is wood (land) for 1 pig,"* or, in other words, "one hog was annually given for the privilege of pannage."[2] At this time twenty-one manors are named as possessing forest rights in the island.

[1] Hillier, *Hist. & Antiqt. I. W.*, part ii, p. 62. [2] Warner, *Domesday Hampshire*, p. 6.

"*It was worth, T.R.E.* (time of King Edward) *27 pounds; it was afterwards, and is now, worth 20 pounds; but it pays 22 pounds.*" Wroxall was an exceptionally valuable estate, as shown by a comparison with the returns from Bonchurch and Luccombe.

The manor continued in the king's hands up to the time of the regrant of the Island, 1101–7, by Henry I, to Richard, earl de Redvers, one of the five barons who had unchangeably adhered to Henry during his contest with his brother Robert. With a small exception the estate was held in demesne by the Lords, until the sale of the island to Edward I in 1293. The exception is thus described in the "*Testa de Nevill*":—

"Regin' le Corner tenet de comittissa ad Marcam iiij*d.* videlicet pro 40 parte unius feodi in Wrocheshale."[1]

Translation:—

"Reginald le Corner holds of the Countess ad Marcam iiij*d*, namely for the 40th part of one fee in Wroxall."

The lords of the island are found exercising their rights from time to time in making various grants of land—to the canons of Christ Church, Hants; to the abbey of Montebourg, in France; and to Quarr Abbey in the Island—a monastery founded by the de Redvers. One of the earliest of these charters is a devise of land, to Quarr Abbey, by Richard (2) de Redvers, *temp.*, Henry II, in a charter of attestation, which translates thus:—

"Be it known to all the faithful as well future as present that Julian, Prior of Christ Church and his two canons, namely, Ralph, the son of Theobald and little Ralph, were at the demise of Earl Richard and heard that the said Earl for his soul's health devised and gave to God and the Abbey of St. Mary of Quarr twenty shillings (*solidatus*) of good land in his manor of Wroxal."

The earl Richard, mentioned here, died in France, 1162. As the only possession of the abbey of Quarr that could have been within the ancient manor of Wroxall was at Bigbury, it follows that the manor of Apse, lying between Wroxall and Bigbury, was separately constituted subsequent to that time, and probably shortly after the grant of Apse to the Priory of Christ Church. In the Confirmation Charter, to the abbey of Quarr, granted by Isabella de Fortibus, "she concedes and confirms (*inter alia*) the gift of Bikberye with its appurtenances." At the dissolution of the religious houses both estates came into the possession of the Crown.

Richard (3) de Redvers, *temp.*, Henry II, gave "his body and 10 solidates of land in his manor of Wroxall– *monachis ibidem Deo servientibus*—" for a perpetual alms for the soul of earl Baldwin, his brother, those of his other ancestors and his own. The land to be held free and quit of all services and customs, as well in ways as in bye-paths, pastures, pasturages and waters, and in all other places."[2]

William de Vernon, who next succeeded to the lordship of the Island, gave "To God and the Blessed Mary of Lira and the monks of the same place . . . all the tithes of my Lordships . . . of Wrocheshale and of

[1] *Testa de Nevill*, p. 241, Rec. Com. [2] Hillier, *Hist. & Antiqt. I. W.*, part ii, p. 73.

Underwath in corn and wool and cheese and lambs, churchscot and pigs, and all things whereof tithes ought to be exacted."[1]

Baldwin, tenth lord of the Island, and the last male of the direct line, on his marriage with Margaret, of Savoy, gave the manors of Wroxall and Freshwater as part of her marriage dower. These estates reverted to the countess Isabella de Fortibus on the death of the widow in 1292. The extent of the manor is set forth by the jurors at the inquisition held after her decease :—

"Extenta manerii de Wrockeshale quod fuit Margarete de Ripariis quondam Comitisse Devonie, facta die Jovis in crastino festi Sancti Barnabe Apostoli (12th June), Anno Regni Regis Edwardi vicesimo . . . . tenuit manerium de Wrockeshale de Isabella Comitissa Albemarlie nomine dotis. . . . Item dicunt quod predictum manerium de Wrockeshale valet in omnibus exitibus xv libras. Dicunt etiam quod predicta Isabella de Fortibus predicte Margarete est propinquior heres et plene ætatis."[2]

The return is dated 12th June, 20 Edward I :—"The jurors say that the said manor of Wroxall was worth, in all its outgoings, 15 pounds. They say also that the aforesaid Isabella is the nearest heir and of full age."

A month later the following order was issued :—

"To . . . . escheator. Order to deliver to Isabel, countess of Albemarle, the manors of . . . . Fressewatre, Wrokeshale and Cristschurche and the issues thereof, as the King learns by inquisition . . . . that Margaret de Ripariis, countess of Devon, held at her death nothing of the King in chief, but that she held the said manors in dower of the gift of Baldwin de Insula, her husband and that Isabel is the next heir and of full age."[3]

The countess Isabella gave—"to Montebourg and the monks. . . . the manor of Appuldurcombe C solidates of land in her manor of Wroxall in free, pure, and perpetual alms for ever, for the safety of herself and all her ancestors and successors." The charter is dated, at Caresbroc, 53 Henry III (1269). The land referred to was known as Cleavelands (Clifflands now Cooks Castle), and was then of the annual value of one hundred shillings.

There is another charter of the Countess referring to Wroxall, dated 1274 :—

"Whereby the said Isabel granted (*inter alia*) that the Canons (of Christchurch, Twynham), may, in future, marl all their lands in the Isle of Wight from the marl pit (*marleria*) of Smeredon, in the manor of Wrockeshale, as often as it pleases them."[4]

In the return made by the Dean of the Island to Bishop Woodlock, 1305, it is stated that :—

"The abbot and convent of Lyra receive all the greater and smaller tithes from the demesne of Wroxall, and the greater tithes of the manor of Appuldurcombe, next the Stone, and the greater tithes from the ancient demesnes of Apse and Holeway and Knighton."

After the surrender, or sale of the Island to Edward I, the king retained the manor in his own hands.

[1] *Add. MS.*, No. 24,789, p. 191, Br. Mus.
[2] Hillier's *Hist. & Antiqt. I. W.*, part ii, p. 88.
[3] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1288—1296.
[4] *Cal. Ch. R.*, vol. iii, p. 5.

An early reference to the manor of Wroxall is found in the "Abbreviation of Original Rolls" for the year 1305. The text is given :—

33 Edward I. (1305).

"Rex etc. salutem—Sciatis quod cum Matheus filius Johannis per cartam suam reddiderit & remiserit nobis et heredibus nostris castrum et villam de Devisis. . . . . Nos eidem Matho' debitam recompensacionem inde fieri volentes dedimus ei et concessimus manerium nostrum de Wroxhale in Insulâ Vecta cum pertinenciis in valorem quadraginta et duabus libras habendum ad totam vitam suam in recompensacionem &c. reddedendo per annum per omnibus serviciis quadraginta solidos, etc."[1]

A "Patent Roll," for 1287, furnishes some explanation of the foregoing :—"Matthew, the son of John, who held the town and castle of Devises and many other manors, had a certain dispute with the Crown concerning his tenure. It was arranged in the King's Court 'That a number of these manors were of the king's right, and in return for this recognition the king granted him Warblington and others for his life."[2] It is known, from other sources, that the manor of Wroxall was included in the list.

In a Calendar of Inquisitions, 1307, the following is entered :—

"Matthew, son of John to grant a messuage and land in Westbrook by Warblington to John Ude . . . retaining for life the manors of Warblington, Hunton and Wroxall."[3]

Mr. T. W. Shore, *Notes on Warblington,* writes :—

"That Henry the 3rd, in 1231, granted to Herbert, son of Matthew, for his sustenance in the service of the King in parts beyond the sea, the manor of Warblington with its appurtenances, which Matthew, father of the said Herbert held during his life as bailiff of King John in exchange for, or in place of, certain lands he had lost in Normandy."[4]

The history of the manor at this time becomes somewhat involved, for Edward II is shown, by a Close Roll, to have granted it to his court favourite, Piers Gaveston :—

1308. June 10. "Whereas the King lately, for good service done, gave to Piers de Gaveston and Margaret, his wife, the King's niece, the castle of Carisbrok and all the other lands in the isle of Wight which were of Isabel de Fortibus . . . . the King, out of further grace, has now given to the said Peter and Margaret the manor of Wroxale in the said island. . . . ."[5]

There is entered in a Close Roll the following order :—

1308. Oct. 12. "To the treasurer and barons of the Exchequer—Order to allow Matthew, son of John, in return for certain surrenders made in the late King's reign . . . and afterwards the late King, on October 20th, in the 33rd year of his reign, granted to him for life, in recompense for the said surrender, the manor of Wroxhale, in the Isle of Wight, as of the value of £40 yearly, rendering therefrom yearly 40 shillings, which the said manor was worth beyond the said £40, etc., the said John having received nothing for the £40 yearly wherewith he is charged for the time between the surrender and the grant of Wroxhale."[6]

[1] *Abbrev. Rot. Original,* vol. i, p. 145 (Rec. Com.).
[2] *Cal. Pat. R.,* 1279—1288.
[3] *Cal. Inq. a. q. d.,* File 67, p. 98.
[4] *Proc. H. F. C.,* vol. v, p. 101.
[5] *Cal. Cl. R.,* 1307—1313.
[6] *Ibid.*

The grant was, however, resumed the following year :—

1309. Aug. 5. "Enrolment of surrender by Peter de Gevaston and Margaret his wife to the King of (*inter alia*) the castle of Karesbrok and the manor of Wroxhale in the isle of Wight, co. Southampton : which they had of the King's gift, to have and to hold in exchange for the earldom of Cornwall."[1]

There are some thirty additional lines.

The manor was then granted by the king to his eldest son, Edward, earl of Chester, who held it in his own hands for the remainder of his life.

Notwithstanding, it appears from the inquisition *post-mortem* that Matthew, son of John, died seised of it :—

1 Edw. III (1327)—"*Mathêus fil' Joh'is*"—

Tenuit terras in Westbroke et maneria de Warblington, Wroxhalle. . . . . Suth't."[2]

In the Close Rolls, 17 Edward III, is an order :—

1344. April 22. "To the treasurer and barons of the exchequer—Order not to intermeddle until further order, with the castle of Caresbrok . . . . with the manors of Wroxhale . . . . as the King has reserved the said castle and manors, etc., to his chamber." By letter of the secret seal called "Griffoun."[3]

The following month the same series of Rolls has entered :—

1344. May 12. "To William Scot and his fellows; justices appointed to hold pleas before the King—Whereas it is found by inquisition taken by the King's order and suit into chancery that Richard le Baroun, of Wroxhale, was born at Bouecombe and his father was one Walter Baroun of Bouecombe—a bondman there—who married a widow of the bondage of Wroxhale holding 1½ virgates of land in the bondage of Wroxhale according to the custom of the manor and that Richard Baroun held the same land for life of Edward 1st freely rendering 23*s*. 2½*d*. yearly at the manor of Wroxhale and the King believes the charter to be fraudulently made, etc., and sends it to the justices."[4]

That the demesne of Wroxall formed a part of the Crown estates is specially set forth by the following deed :—

1353. April 20. "To the collectors of the fifteenth granted by the laity in the Isle of Wight—Order to supersede the demand made upon the men and tenants of the King's manors of Bouecombe, Wroxhall and Neuton in that island for other sums, after receiving from them the sums due from them for that fifteenth, as in consideration of divers charges falling upon the said men and tenants the King has pardoned them," etc.[5]

A lease of the manor of Wroxall, in the year 1368, is in the Manuscript Room at the British Museum. It is written on a small skin in abbreviated Latin, and is somewhat faded.[6] The manor was given for life, 9 Richard II (1386), to William Montacute, earl of Salisbury, who

[1] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1307—1313.
[2] *Cal. Inq. a. q. d.*, Rec. Com., 1883, p. 220.
[3] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1343—1346.
[4] *Ibid.*, 1343—1346.
[5] *Ibid.*, 1349—1354.
[6] *MS. Addl.*, 17,418, Br. Mus.

died in 1397. It was re-granted the same year to Edward, earl of Rutland. He forfeited his honours and estates for conspiracy. The King held the manor till 1404, and it was then granted to his Queen, Joan of Navarre, for her life. In 1409 it was given to the Duke of York, and, at his death, reverted to his widow Phillippa. The manor passed, at her death in 1430, to the Duke of Gloucester. He died 1447, and until 1452 the lordship remained in the Crown and was then granted to Edmund, Duke of Somerset. He was killed at St. Albans, 1455, and his son, who succeeded him, was slain at the battle of Hexham in 1464. The next grantee, Anthony de Wydeville, was beheaded 1483. The last grant was to his brother, Sir Edward, in 1485. He was killed at St. Aubin's in 1488.

The Harleian Roll, A 38, refers to the manor of Wroxall, and gives particulars of the Assize Rent, Fee Farm Rent, Perquisites of Court, etc., for 1488–9. The names of Will'm Jakman, Rich. Jakman, Alice, his wife, and Will'm his son appear. The compotus is £21. 18*s*. 7*d*.[1]

The Harleian Roll, I. 13, entitled "Compotus of Crown Lands in the Isle of Wight, late belonging to dissolved monasteries, 1535–6," has "Maner de Wroxhall dimiss', Andr' Yeoman xxiij libras xixd. ob."[1]

The Crown sold the manor to Mr. Thomas Coteile in the reign of James I. He was High Sheriff of Hants (1630–1), and was a son of Sir Thomas Coteile, Knt., of London. The latter was descended from Stephen Coteile, a Flemish merchant of Antwerp, who came to London in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Mr. Coteile settled the manor on the issue of the marriage of his sister Mary with Lord Edgecumbe. The estate was subsequently sold by a member of that family early in 1800, since which time it has been divided, by sale, amongst various owners.

Lay Subsidy Roll, $\frac{173}{4}$, Southampton, 1 Edward III, 1327.[2]

The following are the assessments for the parish of Wroxall :—

"Villata de Wroxhale."

D̃'s	Joh'e de Insula - -		x^{s}
,,	Will'o le Frensch -		ij^{s}
,,	Joh'e de Cornul -		xij^{d}
,,	Joh'e atte Nasch -		xv^{d}
,,	Rogero le White -		ij^{s}
,,	Will'o le Rouch -		xviij^{d}
,,	Will'o atte Coumbe -		xv^{d}
,,	Rich'o le White -		ij^{s}
,,	Rich'o le Marchal -		ij^{s} vj^{d}
,,	Joh'e Noneton - -		xij^{d}
,,	Simon de Nywenham	iv^{s}	vj^{d}
,,	Rob'to atte Hyde -	iij^{s}	vj^{d}
,,	Rogero le Yonge -		xv^{d}
,,	Joh'e le Clerk - -	iij^{s}	vj^{d}
,,	Walt'e le Clerk - -		ij^{s}
D̃'s	Ad le Fordere - -		xviij^{d}
,,	Will'o Godyng - -		ix^{d}
,,	Simone le Burt - -		xviij^{d}
,,	Ricardo atte Spanne -	iv^{s}	vj^{d}
,,	Ricardo Waryn -		xvj^{d}
,,	Rogero Chaldewelle -		xij^{d}
,,	Jurdano Pot - -	iv^{s}	vj^{d}
,,	Henricus Jurdan -		xviij^{d}
,,	Reb'ca Mokelman -		xv^{d}
,,	Joh'e Gentil - -		x^{d} ob
,,	Reginaldo le Corner -		xiiij^{d}
,,	Ric'o Carpecat - -		xij^{d}
,,	Phillipo de Tadehale -	ij^{s}	
,,	Rog'o Gruthale - -	v^{s}	
	Summa lxvij^{s} j^{d} obolo.		

[1] *Index to Ch. & R. MS. Dep.*, Br. Mus.
[2] *Index to Subs. R. Southton.*, vol. i (Rec. Office).

A CHURCH BRIEF RELATING TO WROXALL.

Isle of Wight, June, 1811.

The absence of a church did not necessarily preclude the laying of a brief in the parish. The briefs were issued for the purpose of calling upon the clergy and the lay officers of the church to incite the parishioners to works of benevolence, mainly, at first, to the restoration or repair of religious houses or churches. After the Reformation the system was extensively resorted to for promoting public subscriptions for making good the damages by fire and other accidental occurrences.

The Wroxall brief was issued for loss caused by fire, and was probably read in nearly all the churches in the counties named in it, for 11,500 copies were printed, and a house to house collection was made.

The following epitome is from the original brief, and recites :—

"*That* whereas William Jeffrey, of Wroxhall, in the Parish of Newchurch, in the Isle of Wight, yeoman, sufferer by fire, as by certificate—*That* on Tuesday the 16th of October, 1811, a sudden and terrible fire broke out in a cottage belonging to one William Cole situate at Wroxhall aforesaid, which, by the violence of the wind in a short time communicated to the dwelling house of the petitioner being separated from the said cottage by a narrow lane only and burnt down and destroyed the dwelling house, barn, stable, cowhouse, together with the waggon and other implements of husbandry, with about five loads of wheat, twelve quarters of barley, a large quantity of straw and other property of the said William Jeffrey. *That* the truth of the premises was made to appear . . . . not only by the petition and oath of William Jeffrey, but also upon the oaths of Robert Miller and one other being able and experienced workmen, which have made an estimate of the expense of rebuilding the said premises, which on a moderate calculation amounts to the sum of £444. 16*s*. 2*d*. exclusive of the old materials. And also upon the oaths of John Jolliffe and James Attrill, neighbours, who have made an estimate of his loss in corn, straw, and other articles—which amounts to the sum of £295. 4*s*. 0*d*. and upwards by which said event the said petitioner is reduced to very great distress."

"Wherefore the poor sufferer has most humbly besought us to grant unto him our most gracious letters patent . . . . to empower him to ask, collect, and receive the alms, benevolence and charitable contributions of all our loving subjects within all and every of our Counties, Cities, Boroughs, Towns, etc., from house to house throughout our Counties of Hants, Dorset, Somerset, Wilts, Gloucester, Berks, Oxford, Bucks, Surrey and Sussex for the purpose aforesaid. . . . . And we do hereby, for the better advancement of these our pious intentions, require and command all Ministers, Teachers and Preachers, churchwardens, chapelwardens . . . . to observe the directions. . . . . And you the respective ministers, curates, teachers . . . . do receive the same. And you the churchwardens and chapelwardens together with the ministers and some of the substantial inhabitants of the several parishes and chapelries within our counties of Hants, Dorset . . . . etc. are hereby required to go from house to house on the week days next following the publication of these presents to ask and receive the charitable contributions and to take the names, in writing, of such as shall contribute . . . . and the sum and sums by them respectively given and indorse the whole sums upon the printed briefs, in words at length and subscribe the same with your own proper hands. . . . . And we do by these presents nominate and appoint the Rev. Sir Henry Worsley Holmes, Baronet, the Rev. John Barwis, Clerk, John de Garus, Esq., Osmund Johnson, James Attril [John] Jolliff, yeoman, and John Stevenson Salt, Gent., Trustees and Receivers. . . . ."

The following excerpt is taken from "A list of Church Briefs from the Commonwealth to 1828."[1]

Name of Brief	Date when laid	Loss	Number of copies printed	Number of Copies returned	Sums collected thereon	Expenses of Patent, etc.	Collector's Salary	Net Proceeds	Date when paid	£	s	d
Wroxall	Mich., 1811	£740. 0s. 2d.	11,500	9,830	£827. 1s. 9½d.	£82. 16s. 10d.	£331. 5s. 4d.*	£419. 19s. 7½d.	1813, Apr. 30	300	5	10½
									1814, ,, 12	23	16	4
									1815, Jan. 28	80	4	6
									1816, Apr. 27	11	2	4½
										£415	9	1

* Undertaker's salary, 8*d.* each brief and 1*s.* 9*d.* for London, henceforth.

The "poor sufferer" therefore received half only of the sum collected after waiting nearly five years, *i.e.*, from Michaelmas, 1811, to April, 1816, while the collector's salary absorbed forty per cent. of the amount received.

On examination of the Hundred Court records it becomes evident that Wroxall and Apse, although distinct manors, with a Court Baron for each, were, at an earlier period united; the tything of Wroxall including both manors. This is proved by the names of those owing suit to each Court Baron being found indiscriminately mingled in the list of those owing similar service at the Hundred Court. For similar reasons there are good grounds for the supposition that the "Brandestone" of Domesday was also included in the ancient Wroxall.

Further information relating to Wroxall is contained in the Original Ministers' Accounts (Rec. Off. 984) (4). The account for 20 Edw. [I] contains Wroxall (*inter alia*), whilst those for 21-22, 29-30, 33-35, Edw. [I]; 1-5, 11-12, Edw. [II]; 2-3, 3-4, 6-7, 7-8, 8-26, Edw. III; 1-4, 4-9, Ric. II (20 separate accounts), apparently contain Wroxall only.

Information—in *re*—Court Rolls,[2] 2 Edw. IV, Wroxall (with others)—202 (6); 1, 3 and 4, Edw. IV, 202 (41); 5 to 7, Hen. VIII, 202 (42); 7-10, 10-11, 12-14, 15-18, 18-22, 22-26, 26-29, Hen. VIII, 202 (43); 2-3 Edw. [II]; 9, 11-16, Edw. III, 202 (53). All these Rolls contain references to Wroxall.

[1] *Church Briefs*, by W. A. Bewes. [2] p. 294.

Chapter VI.

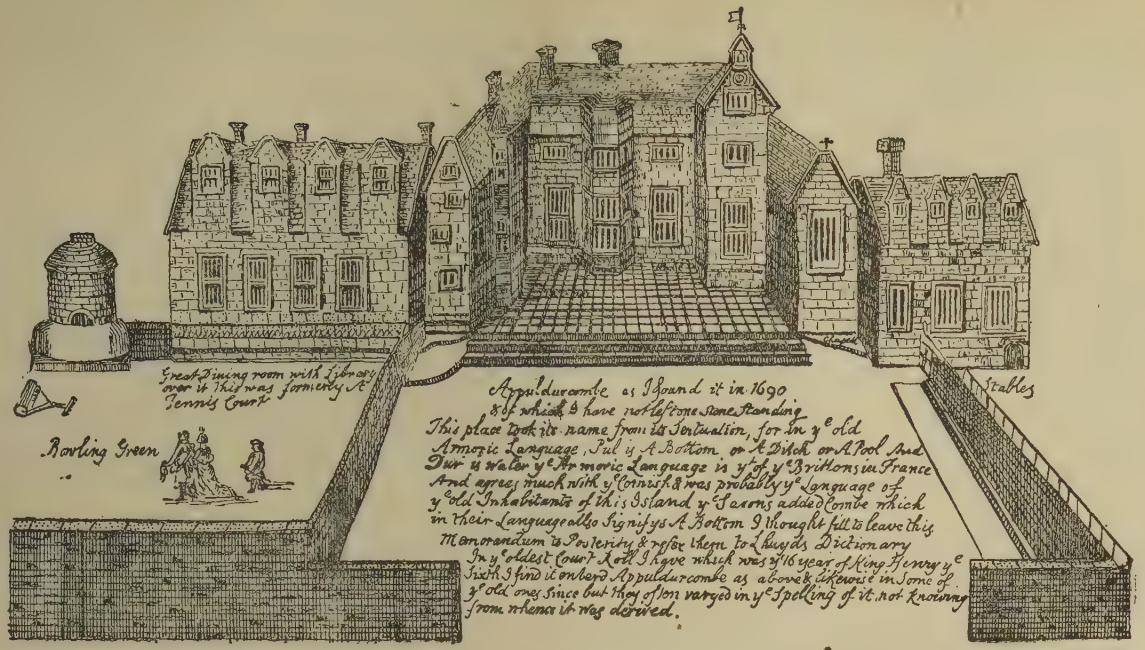
THE PRIORY AND MANOR OF APPULDURCOMBE.

The Priory of Appuldurcombe was founded some eight centuries ago, *circa* 1100, as a cell to the Benedictine abbey of Montebourg, in Normandy, on the manor of the same name which had been granted to that community by Richard de Redvers. Since this occurred soon after the Lordship of the Island had been conferred upon him by the King in recognition of devoted zeal evinced in his service, it would almost seem that the foundation was a kind of personal thank offering for the increased worldly power and wealth with which he had been endowed.

In point of time this priory was the second of the religious foundations established in the Island. The priory of St. Helens is believed to have been founded about the year 1090, that of Appuldurcombe some ten years later, that of St. Cross, 1120, Quarr Abbey, 1131, and the priory of Carisbrooke in 1156.

The first mention of the name is found in an early charter of Geoffrey de Insula, generally assigned to the time of Stephen (1135-54), but probably of later date, 1221-52, *temp.* Henry III, to which the then prior, "Rich. priore de Apuldurcombe," is an attesting witness.[1] The name is found spelt in a variety of ways, and it will be interesting to refer to the various derivations of the word that have been suggested before proceeding further with the history of the foundation. Sir John Oglander, writing in the first half of the 17th century—before 1632—says:—"Apelder Combe wase originollie one Apelder's; Combe in ye Saxon tongue signifieth a valley or a bottom betweene hilles."[2] Sir Robert Worsley in a memorandum dated 1720, says: "This place took its name from its situation, for in ye old Armoric Language, Pul is a Bottom, or a Ditch, or a Pool, and Dur is water, Ye Armoric Language is yt of ye Britons in France And agrees much with ye Cornish and was probably ye Language of ye old Inhabitants of this Island, ye Saxons added Combe which in their Language allso signifys A Bottom," and adds: "I thought fitt to leave this memorandum to Posterity and refer them to Lhuyd's Dictionary. In ye oldest Court Roll I have, which was ye 16 year of King Henry ye Sixth I find it entered Appuldurcombe as above, and likewise in some of ye old ones since, but they often varyed in ye Spelling of it, not knowing from whence it was derived." Brayley gives it as "*Y-pwll-y-dwr-y-cwm, i.e.,* the pool of water in the hollow or recess of a hill."[3] Canon Venables says: "Without going so far back, it may be deduced much more simply from the Saxon "Appuldre" and the British

[1] W., *App.*, No. 58. [2] Ogl., *Mem.*, p. 153. [3] *Hampshire and the I. of W.*, p. 373.



Appuldurcombe as I found it in 1690
& of which I have not left one Stone Standing
This place took its name from its Situation, for In ye old
Armoric Language, Pul is A Bottom or A Ditch or A Pool And
Dur is water ye Armoric Language is yt of ye Britons in France
And agrees much with ye Cornish & was probably ye Language of
ye old Inhabitants of this Island ye Saxons added Combe which
in their Language also Signifys A Bottom I thought fit to leave this
Monorandum to Posterity & refer them to Lloyds Dictionary
In ye oldest Court Roll I have which was of 16 year of King Henry ye
Sixth I find it on Record Appuldurcombe as above & likewise in Some of
ye old ones Since but they often varyed in ye Spelling of it not knowing
from whence it was derived.

Rob. Worsley
1720

"cwm," "the valley of Apple Trees."[1] Mr. T. W. Shore remarks that "Only a few village or town names in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight are entirely Celtic names. Appeldercombe is one of the oldest of these few place names, and may possibly have been the name of the place it now denotes in Romano-British times. It is a compound syllabic Celtic water word 'pwl,' a pool, 'dur,' water, and 'cwm,' a valley or hollow between hills, transformed later on by Saxon usage into combe." It is one of the water names derived from names which the prehistoric races gave them, and the character of it may possibly have been more appropriate when first used, some two thousand years ago, than it is now."[2]

In Taylor's "*Words and Places*" there is the latest reference:—"The names of fruit trees are also very unfrequent, with the exception of that of the apple-tree, and even this appears very rarely in conjunction with Anglo-Saxon roots, being found chiefly in Celtic names, such as Appledurcombe."[3] "The word '*cwm*' in the Saxonised form *combe,* often occurs in English local names, especially in those counties where the Celtic element is strong."[3] He mentions Appuldurcombe and Gatcombe, in the Isle of Wight, as instances.

A more recent writer is under the impression that "there is no water on this side of the down," whereas a constant supply issues higher up the valley, and flowing through the fields is joined by smaller streamlets to form the brook on which one of the three mills mentioned in Domesday Book is situated. The mill, now known as "French Mill" is referred to by Oglander well nigh three centuries ago, "there is a mill carieth ye name of ffrench mill, so named after the foreign monks."

The other two mills would belong to the Wroxall Valley, and in all probability were served by the same rivulet, since it is assumed that water mills are referred to in the record. The occurrence of the name Sandford among place names with those of Southford and Appleford in the near neighbourhood would seem to indicate that in earlier days fords were needed here for crossing the swampy valley during the winter months. The word "ford" is derived from an old British word spelt "fordd," meaning a passage way across water.

The earliest endowment of the priory was that of the founder who gave to the Abbey of Montebourg, in Normandy, the "Manor in the Island of With, which is called Wiche" (Week). The charter of Richard de Redvers has been preserved, and was to the effect:—

"In the name of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, I, Richard de Redvers, seeing everything, save what is done for the sake of God to be perishable . . . give and grant a certain manor in the Isle of Wight, Sanfort by name . . . and that this gift may be for ever ratified I confirm it by the sign of the Holy Cross."[4]

The manor in question was part of the private demesne of the Earl. Hillier says "that the lands received from the Crown by the Earl of Devon were principally those mentioned in Domesday as being in the

[1] *Guide to the I. of W.*, p. 239.
[2] *Hist. of Hampshire*, p. 59.
[3] *Ed.*, 1906, pp. 151, 249.
[4] Stapleton, *Rot. Scac. Norm.*

hands of the King at the period of its compilation."[1] "Wica," in the Confessor's reign, was part of a royal manor, and belonged to estates known later as the "ancient demesne" of the Crown. The Domesday Record says :—

"The King holds Sandford with Wica in demesne. King Edward held them. (There were) then 3 hides. When the sheriff received them, there were 2 hides and 1 virgate. There is land for 12 ploughs. In (the) demesne are 3 ploughs, and (there are) 10 villeins and 3 bordars with 6 ploughs. There are 10 serfs, and 2 mills worth 70 pence; and 6 acres of meadow. From the pasturage (de herbagio) (come) 20 shillings. There is wood(land) without pannage. The above manors were worth, T.R.E. (time of King Edward), 25 pounds of weighed and assayed money. When the King received them, they were worth 20 of the above pounds, and now they are worth 20 pounds of weighed money, and yet they are farmed for 26 pounds of weighed money and 100 pence."[2]

The conjoined manor extended across the parish of Godshill, Week forming the southern and Sandford the northern boundaries of the parish. It was an ideal estate for an early settlement, and marked out by nature as a desirable one, having a constant water supply, being well wooded, and affording good supplies of fuel.

The founder's son and successor, Baldwin de Redvers, "confirmed to the Abbey of Montebourg and to the monks there serving God" all the gifts which his father had made to them in England :—

"Notum sit omnibus presentibus et futuris quod ego Baldewinus comes Exoñ . . . . confirmavi Deo et abbatie sancte Marie Montisburgi et monachis ibi Deo servientibus omnes donationes quas ipsis fecit Ricardus de Redveriis pater meus in Anglia. . . . Et aliud manerium in insula de With quod dicitur Wicha liberum et quietum cum omnibus pertinentiis."[3]

Richard (2) de Redvers, his eldest son and successor, in the lordship of the island, likewise confirmed the gifts to the abbey, which he states "his father much loved, and his grandfather founded."[4]

Richard (3) de Redvers, seventh lord of the island, gave "to the Church of the Blessed Mary of Montebourg his body, and 100 solidates of land in the manor of Wroxall . . . for a perpetual alms for the soul of Earl Baldwin, his brother, those of his other ancestors and his own. The land to be held free and quit of all services and customs, as well in ways as in bye-paths, pastures, pasturages, and waters."[5]

"Universis Sancte Matris ecclesie filiis Ricardus de Redveriis salutem. Noverit universitas vestra [me] corpus meum dedisse ecclesie beate Marie de Montisburgo et cum corpore meo dedisse et hac carta mea confirmasse eidem ecclesie et monachis ibidem Deo servientibus C. solidatas terre in manerio meo de Wrokesale in Insula."

The land here referred to formed part of the parish of Newchurch, and was opposite and adjacent to the grounds of the priory, forming, as in the previous instance, a part of the personal possessions of the Lords of the Island.

[1] Hillier, *Hist. & Antiqt. I. W.*, part ii, p. 66.
[2] V. C. H., *Domesday Survey*, vol. i, p. 457.
[3] Hillier, p. 69. *Excerpt e Chartulary of Lodres*, Charter No. 2, pp. 1, 2.
[4] Hillier, *Hist. & Antiq, I. W.*, part ii, p. 71.
[5] Hillier, p. 73. *Excerpt e Chartul. of Montebourg*, fo. 201.

This endowment was still further augmented by the countess Isabella de Fortibus, who looked upon the priory with great favour; "she not only confirmed the manor of Wicha, but also gave the manor of Appuldurcombe and C. solidates of land in the manor of Wrokesall (Wroxall), in free, pure, and perpetual alms for ever—for the safety of the souls of herself and all her ancestors and successors."[1] The charter is "dated at Caresbroc, 53 Henry III." The land referred to was known as Cleavelands (Clifflands, now Cook's Castle); it was of the annual value of 100s. The Countess showed so much regard to the convent of her ancestor's foundation that, in a charter dated at Caresbroc, A.D. 1279, to her new town of Medina (Newport), "she exempted the Prior of Appuldurcombe from the toll and the petty customs granted to that borough."[2]

"Consueverunt exceptis tresdecim placiis et dimidia supra dictis et salvis libertatibus a me concessis abbi et conventus de Quarrer et hominibus suis et Priore de Apeldercombe et hominibus suis," etc.[3]

In the *Testa de Nevill* it is stated that "The Abbott of Mountsburgh holds (of the countess Isabella) one fee in Wyke, Staumford, and Appeltrecoumb," and it is also recorded that "the Abbot holds one fee at Wydcoumbe," as a tenant of the lady Matilda le Estour, of Gatcombe. The estate mentioned here is in the Whitwell parish, and was probably given to the priory by some member of the Stur family. The Domesday Record shows that it was part of the possessions of William, son of Stur. In an indenture dated 1644, defining the boundaries of a small estate, "Dolcoppe," in the Godshill parish, reference is made to "the lands that did sometime belong to the Monastery of Mounteberrough." It would almost appear that to safeguard local interests the Prior had "a provost (præpositus) at Swainston, and a reeve at Brighstone."[4]

In the Taxatio of Pope Nicholas, *circa* 1291, granting the tenths of all ecclesiastical benefices to the king, "The Prior de Apelderescombe" is assessed at £30. 17*s.* 0*d.*, and in 1345 the assessment had risen in annual value to £45.

In the return to a mandate from the Bishop of Winchester to the Archdeacon of the Island, dated 1384, and quoted by the Rev. E. Venables in his paper "On the Alien Priories in the Isle of Wight and their seizure by Edward I," the same value is given.

During the early part of the reign of Edward I, when the French were very active in attacking places on the coast, elaborate preparations for the defence of the Island were organised, and it was thought unsafe to allow foreign monks to remain at Appuldurcombe, a priory situated so near the sea. It will be readily understood that "when England had only recently been brought under the Norman yoke, it was a reasonable arrangement that when a benefaction of lands or tithes was made to any one of the French monasteries by a Norman lord, an off-shoot of their establishment should be planted on the estate, in order to secure

[1] Hillier, *Hist. & Antiq. I. W.*, part ii, p. 90.
[2] W., *Hist. I. W.*, p. 181.
[3] *Add. MS.*, No. 24789, p. 199, Br. Mus.
[4] *The Alien Priories, Arch. Journ.*, vol. xxix, p. 230.

the profitable cultivation of the land, and to transmit the rents and revenues to the mother Abbey across the seas. This practice then presented nothing that appeared at variance with a sound national policy,"[1] but with the lapse of time, the loss of the Normandy provinces, and the changed relations between the two countries, a complete transformation of feeling towards the *Alien Priories*—the name by which they soon became known—took place. They were regarded with jealousy and dislike as interlopers, and the feeling became one of decided hostility when the two countries were at war with one another. "A reasonable feeling of suspicion was entertained that the priories might avail themselves of their position to obtain and furnish information to the King's foes, and thus do serious mischief to the realm."[2] Consequently, a writ to the Bishop of Winchester was issued, 22, Edward I (1294), directing the removal of all the priories in the Isle of Wight to the mainland when war with France had broken out. Their property was taken into the king's hands, the estates being managed by the king's officers. It was owing to this circumstance that an interesting return of the property belonging to the Priory, furnished by the jurors to Richard de Afton, one of the noted Islanders in those days, was made.

From the evidence given to the jurors it appears that "the same kind of stock which is now kept on an English farm was kept five or six hundred years ago. Oxen, cows, horses, pigs, sheep, and poultry were reared on the Isle of Wight farms in the days of Edward I, just as they are now."[3] From the returns it would seem that only a limited number of farm horses were kept, and these must have been sorry drudges, since they are valued at 20*d.* each—the average prices at the time being 6*s.* 9*d.* Cart horses are priced at 20*s.*, a bull at 5*s.*, cows at 6*s.* Young oxen used for draught purposes run from 4*s.* each. A great number of pigs—an important stock in those days—were kept, the largest return, viz., 92, from all the island priories being from Appuldurcombe, where the woods in which they could pick up mast and acorns were the most extensive. The pigs were valued at 2*s.* each. The island then, as now, was a famous sheep breeding country, and on the downs of Appuldurcombe the largest number of sheep, *viz.*, 403, were fed, the prices varying from 8*d.* to 1*s.* The wool was the highest also in value, priced at 1*s.* 6*d.* a petra or stone of 13℔. The poultry consisted of eighty chickens, and are valued at 1*d.* per head.

The military equipment was very limited, being returned at two "mustilers," probably a kind of body armour made of a particular kind of cloth. Meyrick considers it "a species of bastard armour for the body, composed of a quantity of wool, just sheared from the sheep."

The establishment at first was small. A prior and two monks only are mentioned on one occasion, although no doubt there were also some lay brothers to take charge of the rents and to look after the profitable cultivation of the estate. The Benedictine monks at first were few in number. "When not engaged in performing divine service, the humble establishment of the priory cultivated the church lands, superintending

[1], [2], [3], Venables, *The Alien Priories*, pp. 1, 3, 7.

the labours of the farm, if not working with their own hands. After discharging the costs of the maintenance of their house and themselves, they were accountable for the profits of the farm to the head of the larger establishment in Normandy."[1]

During King Edward II's reign similar harsh measures were enforced against the "alien priories":—

18 Edw. II (1325).—"Compotus Nicholai de la Flode de exitibus terris et tenementis, bonor' et catall'; hominum Religiosum alieni genarum de potestate Regis Francie in Insula Vecta in com' Sutht' per breve Regis patens dat viij die Oct' anno 18° usque decimum diem mensis Decembris prox . . . . sequen . . . ante quam lib. . . . Prioratum predictem . . . Fratri Theodoro Priori dicti Prioratus . . . Et de exitibus terris . . . Prioris de Appeltrecumbe, in dicta Insula," etc.[2]

An order, dated 13 Edward III (1339), was issued, directing the Bishop of Winchester "to remove the Prior and the two monks from Appuldurcombe to Hyde Abbey, during the war with France."[3]

There is entered on the Patent Rolls for the same year:—

1339. May 12. Berkhampstead. "To John de Flete, keeper of the wardrobe in the Tower of London and supplying the place of Thomas de Hatfield, receiver of the issues of the lands reserved to the King's chamber—Order to receive from the prior of Appildercoumbe in the Isle of Wight, all that money which he owes for Easter term last, of his ferm of £66. 13*s*. 4*d*. for the custody of his priory, which the King took into his hands and granted to the prior to hold at will, rendering the said ferme vacated because it was surrendered. Mandate to the prior to pay the said money to John."[4]

The Close Rolls have various notices entered connected with Appuldurcombe Priory:—

1340. May 5. "To the treasurer and barons of the Exchequer—Order not to make assignment of any things which the King has caused to be reserved at his chamber, and to make allowance for the payments which they find the following priors, bailiffs, fermors and other ministers to have made to the receiver of the King's chamber; as before his passage to parts beyond the seas, the King reserved at his chamber all profits, ferms, and rents of . . . . Caresbrok and Apeldercombe, etc., being in the hands of aliens."[5]

Four years later there is a further entry:—

1344. April 22. "To the treasurer, barons of the exchequer—Order not to intermeddle until further orders with . . . . the ferms of the priories of . . . . Caresbrok, Appeldercombe . . . . which are in the hands of aliens by the King's commission.

By letter of the secret seal called Griffoun."[6]

The priory was again seized and continued in the King's hands during the remainder of his reign and the reign of his successor Richard II.

There is amongst the Miscellaneous Exchequer Accounts, 4-35, 19-28 Edward III, a file of receipts, twenty-two in number, written in

[1] Venables, *The Alien Priories.*
[2] *Ex. Q. R.*, *Alien Priories.*
[3] W., *App.*, No. 79.
[4] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 13 Edw. III, p. 138.
[5] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1339—1341.
[6] *Ibid.*, 1343—1346.

French, entitled, "*Lettres d'Aquitance sous le seal de Griffin en la chambre le Roi par Prior de Appeldercombe en l'isle de Wight,*" covering the period from October, 1345, to May, 1364, whilst the estates were in the king's hands. The receivers' names mentioned are Robert de Burton, Robert de Mildenhale, Sir John de Kingstonn, and William de Rothwell.[1]

8 Oct., 1345.	Receipt by the King, for £33. 6*s*. 8*d*., received of the Prior of Appeldercombe by the hands of Robert de Burton for his farm, for Michaelmas term last past. The Tower.
1 May, 1346.	A like receipt for £33. 6*s*. 8*d*., for Easter term last past. The Tower of London.
22 June, 1346.	A like receipt, for £33. 6*s*. 8*d*. for Michaelmas term next to come. Porchester.
21 April, 1347.	A like receipt, for £33. 6*s*. 8*d*. for his farm of Easter term last past, by the hands of Robert de Mildenhale. Before Calais.
11 Dec., 1347.	A like receipt, for £33. 6*s*. 8*d*. for Michaelmas term last past. Calais.
14 May, 1348.	A like receipt, for Easter term last past. Westminster.
6 Dec., 1348.	A like receipt, for Michaelmas term last past. ,,
4 July, 1349.	A like receipt, for Easter term last past. ,,
9 Feb., 1349–50.	A like receipt for 35 marks (*id est* £23. 6*s*. 8*d*.) in part payment of Michaelmas term last past. Westminster.
15 April, 1350.	Receipt by the King, for £10 in part payment of 50 marks due Michaelmas term last past, by the hands of Robert de Mildenhale. Westminster.
4 June, 1350.	A like receipt, for £26. 13*s*. 4*d*. in part payment of Easter term last past. Westminster.
10 May, 1351.	A like receipt, for 20 marks (£13. 6*s*. 8*d*.), in part payment of Michaelmas term last past. Westminster.

Two days later, a "Pardon by the King, by reason of the impoverishment of the priory of Appeldercombe through the great mortality, to the Prior of 10 marks due for Michaelmas term last past."

8 July, 1351.	Receipt for £23. 6*s*. 8*d*., in part payment of Easter term last. Westminster.
10 Dec., 1351.	A like receipt, for 35 marks, for Michaelmas term last past. Westminster.

On 1 June, 1352, is a receipt in the form of an indenture. The text is in French, and a translation of it is appended :—

"This indenture witnesses that Sir John de Kyngeston, clerk, keeper of the lands of our lord the King in the Isle of Wight, has received of the Prior of Appeldercombe and his mainpernors (?) in the said Isle 25 marks sterlings which they owe to our said lord the King for the farm of the said Priory for the term of Easter last past and which they had orders on the part of our said lord the King under his seal of the griffon to deliver to the said John under certain requirements. . . . .

In witness of which thing the parties mentioned below have put their seals to these indentures, given at Carisbrook, etc."

4th Dec., 1352.—The following transcript shows that the priory was still in arrears—as to payment :—

"Know all persons that I, Robert de Mildenhale, receiver of the pence of the chamber of our lord the King, have received of the Prior of Appeldercombe,

[1] *Exch. Miscellanea*, $\frac{A}{25}$, 19–28 Edward III.

an alien, 25 marks sterlings, in part payment of his farm of the Priory aforesaid, for the term of St. Michael (of arrears) last past. In witness of which thing I have placed my seal to this my letter of quittance.—Written at Westminster, etc."

1st May, 1353.—The following is the usual form of receipt given :—

"Edward by the grace of God, King of England, France, and Ireland, to all those who shall see or hear these letters, greeting. Know ye that we have received in our chamber by the hands of our dear clerk William de Rothewell, receiver thereof, of the Prior of Appeldercombe, alien, twenty pounds sterling, in part payment of the arrears which he owes us of the farm of the said priory, being in our hand by reason of the war moved between us and our adversaries of France. In witness whereof," etc.

18 June, 1353.	Receipt for £12. 10*s*., in part payment of arrears, by the hands of William de Rothewelle.	Westminster.
6 Nov., ,,	A like receipt for 27 marks, for arrears.	,,
1 March, 1353-4.	Pardon by the King, by reason of the impoverishment of the Priory of Appeldurcombe through the plague to the Prior of £40 arrears."	Westminster.
2 May, 1354.	Receipt for £12. 13*s*. 4*d*. for arrears.	,,
5 ,, ,,	Pardon as above of 10 marks out of 50 marks owing for Easter term last past.	Westminster.

"There is no certain method of comparing the value of money then and now. Moneys of the 13th century, multiplied by 24, and moneys of about 1400, multiplied by 16, will approximately give the relative value. The date of payment here falling between these two dates, 20 may be used as the multiplier."[1]

The receipts thus show that the fixed annual rent was 100 marks, *i.e.*, £66. 13*s*. 4*d*., which sum multiplied by 20 as suggested would give a rental—modern day values—of £1333. 6*s*. 8*d*.

The full rent appears to have been duly paid at the usual half yearly terms, during the first four years, but with the advent of the great pestilence, known as "black death," a deficiency of fifteen pounds is shown for the year 1349. The deficit is still further increased the following year, consequent upon the great mortality, when half the population succumbed to the pestilence.

In May, 1351, a "Pardon by the King, by reason of the impoverishment of the priory of Appeldercombe through the great mortality there, to the Prior, of 10 marks," follows. In 1351, the deficiency in rental was twenty pounds, and the ensuing year only half the rental was forthcoming. In March, 1353-4, a further "Pardon by the King, by reason of the impoverishment of the Priory through the Plague, to the Prior, of £40 arrears" appears. The farming operations, from the dearth of labourers were practically at a standstill.

The financial difficulties, arising from various causes, evidently continued, for in the year 1372-3 the Bishop (Wykeham) acknowledges the receipt of a letter from the Pope's nuncio enjoining him to publish a sentence to Sequestrate against the Priory for the sum of £25. 7*s*. 0*d*., due for first fruits to the pope on confirmation of prior John de Osanna.[2]

[1] Chas. Wall, *Shrines of British Saints. Rec. Romsey Abbey*, p. 177.
[2] *Wyk. Reg.*, vol. ii, p. 191 (H. Rec. Soc.).

During the latter part of Edward III's and in the earlier years of his successor's reign very troublous times must have occurred. Notwithstanding the preparations made for the defence of the coast of the Isle of Wight, about the end of August, 1377, the French invaded it from the north and came to Arreton in the centre of the Island "raiding the church and stealing therefrom the Bishop's commission to the Archdeacon which the rector had deposited there for safe keeping."[1] It would seem that the enemy raided even further south, since at that time, "the Prior of Appuldurcombe petitioned the King and Council for relief in consequence of the devastation caused to their property by the enemy from France and Spain."

Towards the close of the reign of King Richard II, the parent monasteries were allowed to sell the estates appertaining to their alien priories, a privilege which may possibly have been exercised in this instance. Matters had come to a crisis, and, in 1399, there was issued "A grant from Henry IV empowering the Abbess of the Minories without Aldgate to settle in the Manor of Appuldurcombe, during the war with France. Together with leave to the Abbott and Convent of Montesburge in Normandy to dispose of the s^d^ manor to the Abbess and her Sisters for ever."

A further grant confirmatory of the above was issued 2 Henry V (1415) and again later, in 1422, when the priory, after an existence of over three centuries, was finally suppressed by Statute—the Norman Abbey parted with all its rights and titles to the Nuns Minoresses of St. Clare. The validity of the transaction was confirmed in the ensuing reign.

Nothing is known as to the extent of the conventual buildings. "On the eve of Passion Sunday, 27 March, 1395, Simon, bishop of Anchonry, acting as suffragan of Winchester, conferred, by commission, in the chapel of the manor of Apeldercombe, orders on four sub-deacons, three deacons, and four priests."[2]

The names of seven of the Priors have been transmitted to us :—

. . . . Richard, a prior generally assigned to the time of Stephen, but probably of later date, *temp.* Henry III.

A.D. 1325. Theodore, is named 18 Edward II, in a compotus roll of Nicholas de la Flode (see page 153).

,, 1331. Lawrence Bertram.

,, 1372. John de Osanna.

,, 1385. Peter de Mouster.

,, 1403. Thomas atte Townsend.

No date. Peter de Membrantot.

Sir John Oglander says, "In this ile (Godshill Church) the owners of Apeldercombe weare buryed as being partlie founded by the Priors thereof. Where one Prior is buryed his portraicture on brasse is on a stone."[3] This tombstone, with its "portraict of brass," is said to have been destroyed during the Civil wars.

During the time the manorial estate remained in the hands of the

[1] *Wyk. Reg.*, vol. ii, p. 275 (H. Rec. Soc.).
[2] *Ibid.*, vol. i, p. 337 (H. Rec. Soc.).
[3] Ogl., *Mem.*, p. 184.

Aldgate Nuns, the manor was held by the Fry family, under lease, from the convent. This family was of some importance in the Island. Sir John Oglander has the following reference in his notes on Godshill Church :—" These Fryes weare an awntient famely, and ffermers of Apeldorcombe aftor itt wase taken awaie from the Abbey in ffrance. In the sowth isle next belowe the chawncell are two fayre stones under whom are buryed the bodies of the Fryes, in ye stones are pictores of brasse, but the inscriptions are stolen awaie. In the south chancel on a fayre stone is this inscription :—Hic Johes Frye, filius Ric. Frye et Margaretae uxoris suae, qui obiit II. die Januar. Anno Dom. 1512. Cujus animae propitietur Deus. Amen."[1]

The stones are now destroyed.

The last representative of this family, dying without male issue, left the lease of the manor of Appuldurcombe, the priory of Carisbrooke, Cleavlands, and Whiteshale and other estates, to his widow Agnes, a daughter and co-heiress of John Hackett, Esq., of Knighton, and of Wolverton, in Brading.

The widow married secondly Sir John Leigh, of More, co. Dorset, and had by him an only daughter Anne, who became the wife of Sir James Worsley. A special dispensation was granted 20th Henry VII (1505), enabling Sir John to hold these several properties at the same time, though contrary to the tenor of an Act of Parliament passed earlier in the reign :—

" Whereas John Leigh *alias* Sir John Leigh and Agnes his Wife Joan Fry the Daughter of the said Agnes, have possessed and held and do possess and hold the Manor, or Priory of Appuldurcombe with its appurtenances," etc.[2]

When Sir John Leigh came into possession of the estates he probably used the house of the former owners, into which the remains of the old Priory House had most likely been incorporated. Sir Robert Worsley has given a sketch, dated 1720, of this picturesque gabled structure, in 1690, standing near the site of the present mansion.

Between the two altars in Godshill Church the very beautiful canopied tomb of Sir John Leigh and his wife may be seen, described in the Oglander memoirs as " the fayrest toombe in oure Island, on which toombe the sayde Mary, wyfe of Sir John Leigh, lyeth in her coate armoure, embellished with Hackett's armes, her fathor, and Leygh's her howsbonde. In the sowth crosse (Godshill Church) is buryed one of the Hacketts, with this inscription : Pray for the soule of William Hackett, Esq., on whose Soule Jhesus haue mercie. Amen."

Anne, only daughter and co-heir of Sir John and dame Agnes Leigh, married, as previously mentioned, James Worsley, the marriage taking place in 1512.

Miss Leigh had been a lady in waiting to Margaret Beaufort, the mother of the king, and was possessed of a very large estate derived from her mother, including, with other properties, the lease of Bowcombe, the priory of Carisbrooke, the manors of Godshill, Freshwater. . . . which

[1] Ogl., *Mem.*, p. 184. [2] Albin, *Hist. I. W.*, p. 189.

were then of great value. Sir James Worsley had been page for many years to Henry VII., and the boyish friend of Henry VIII. He was a court favourite, a groom of the robes, and a personal attendant on the King, thus—as was the fashion in those days—succeeding to many offices carrying with them allowances and various ample emoluments. Many references to him occur in the public records. In November, 1510, as page of the Wardrobe of Robes, he is appointed "butler of the port of Poole during pleasure with customs and prisage of wines." On April, 4th, 1513, he was appointed "keeper of the lions and other beasts in the Tower of London, with the premises and allowances appointed for them, and was further Licensed to import 200 tuns of Gascon wine." . . . . . By his marriage with the Leigh heiress he obtained a footing in the Island, and the association of the Worsley family with Appuldurcombe lasted for more than three centuries. The year after the marriage Worsley was appointed Captain of the Island for life, and two years later constable of the Castle, keeper of Carisbrooke Forest and Park, steward of all the Crown lands, etc. In the account book of Sir James, as keeper of the King's wardrobe in the Tower, we find this entry in the year 1525: "Item, given to James Worsley by the king's grace, a cote of blake velvete with ij gardes of blake satten furred with blake conye."

With reference to the picturesque gabled structure sketched by Sir Robert Worsley, as it existed in 1690, Canon Venables suggests:—"That this house was one probably erected by Sir James Worsley, where his son Richard had the honour of entertaining Henry VIII and his minister, Cromwell," between the years 1538 and 1540.

The King's object in coming to Appuldurcombe was probably to enjoy his amusement of hawking. In 1541, an Order "to prevent any Pheasants or Partridges being killed in the Isle of Wight," was issued to Richard Worsley, captain of the Island. The text is given in extenso by Worsley.[1]

Sir Richard Worsley, writing in 1781, using the material collected a century earlier by an ancestor, Sir James Worsley, of Pilewell, says:—"The old priory house was situated a small distance from the present mansion. It underwent a thorough repair in the reign of Elizabeth, and was finally taken down by Sir Robert, who boastfully states he had not left one stone standing." Brayley, alluding to the house, says:—"The venerable building was thoroughly repaired in the reign of Queen Elizabeth and made a fair residence."[2] No mention is made elsewhere of another building.

Sir James Worsley died in the year 1538, bequeathing to the King, in his will, "his best chain," and to the Lord Priors Seal "his best standing cup."[3] We conclude that he was not imbued with any leanings to the new religion, since he wills to his chaplain, Father Anghell, the sum of six pounds. "In the north chawncell in ye north syde of the wall (in Godshill Church) is the toombe of Sir James Woorseley without anie

[1] W., *App.*, No. 37. [2] Brayley, *Hist. Hamp.*
[3] *P. C. C. proved 5th October, 1538. Hants N. & Q.*, vol. iii, p. 85.

Appledurcombe Park, 1821.

inscription, onlie he is theyre pictured kneelinge, erected by his wyfe. Under a fayre stone a littel belowe in the same ile lyeth buryed the Ladie Woorseley, the widdowe of Sir James, who dyed a verie olde woman. There weare her armes and an inscription on brasse on her toombe, but now defaced."[1]

In the year 1527, the final transfer of the estates took place and a perusal of the following indenture shows that for the space of 114 years, during which time the convent had possession of the estates, the nuns passed through very trying periods of financial anxiety and distress, the causes of which do not appear on the surface, but which we may surmise were operative on all monastic establishments, until they finally culminated in their dissolution during the reign of Henry VIII.

"A Grant by Lady Dorothy Comberford, Abbess, etc., to Sir James Worsley of the Manor of Appledurcombe for ever.

"This Endenture made betweene Dame Dorathe Comberford, Abbes of the Monastery of the Mynories of the order of St. Clare, without Aldgate, of the Citie of London and the Convent of the same place of that one partie, and Sir James Worsley, Knyght and Dame Anne, his Wyfe, of the other partie: Witnessith that the saide Abbes and Convent with one assent, consent, and wille of all their hole Chapitre, for certain good and reasonable Consideracions, that is to say, Because the saide Sir James and Dame Anne now Ten'nts and Fermours of the Manor, Londes and Ten'nts hereundre specified by Lease for xxxv yeres and above, and Sir John Legh, Knyght, Fadir unto the said Dame Anne and their Ancestries of long tyme Fermours of ye saide Manor with app'ences have done many and grete costs and chargs as well in Repacions as in newe buyldings, in and upon the saide Manor, Landes, and Tenements, and that the saide Sir James and Dame Anne entendith there to doo more. And in Consideracion that the saide Sir James and Dame Anne hathe not only lent unto the saide Abbes and Convent nowe in this dere yere for many theire grete nedes and necessities, the somme of lxxxij poundes Sterlings to be paide in xi yeres, that is to say every yeare vi*li*. xiij*s*. iiij*d*., as by theire Convent Seale apperith, but also hathe frely gevyn unto the saide Abbes and Convent, towards the Relevyng of their necessary chargs, £xx. Sterlings, and also in Consideracion that the saide Abbes and Convent shalle have theire fulle and hole Rent truly countted and paid. And also in consideracion that the saide Sir James and Dame Anne over and above the saide olde rent and charges byndyng theym and theire Heires that every Heire succeeding the saide Manor after the disscesse of the saide Sir James and Dame Anne or any of them, Shall pay to the saide Abbes and Convent and their Successors at every of theire Entre into the saide Manoure for a Relefe or Heryot vi*li*. xiii*s*. iiii*d*. Sterlings as hereafter shall be declared Have gevyn graunted and by this present Endenture confermed into the aforsaide Sir James and Dame Anne his Wyfe All theire Manoure of Appeldercombe with their apptenances in the Ile of Wight And all the Landes, and T'ent^s^, Rents, and Services, with all other profits and commodities whatsoever they be to the saide Manoure or Priory belonging: Except and alway reserved to the saide Abbes and Convent and to their Successours, Alle the Landes and Ten^ts^, Rents, and Services with alle th app'tences in Wolvelegh in the Countie of Berks. To Have and To Holde the saide Manoure or Pryore, etc., etc., in fee forme for evermore. Yeldyng and Paying therefor yerely for evermore unto the forsaid Abbes and Convent and to theire Successours or certyn Attourney within the Monastery of the Mynores without Aldgate aforesaide, Fiftie and Six Poundes Thirtene shillinges and foure pence at two termes of the yere, etc., etc., shall delyvre an acquittance Sealed with their Seale called *Sigillum ad Causas* bering date in theire saide Monastery . . . And yf it happe the forsaide yerely Rent or Ferm of £56. 13*s*. 4*d*.

[1] Ogl., *Mem.*, p. 185.

or any parcelle thereof to be behynde unpaid wt in the saide Monastery by the space of two moneths next after any Terme of payment thereof above reserved etc., that then it shalle be lawful unto the forsaide Abbes, etc., etc., hoolly to re-enter them as in theire former Estate to have againe and repossesse etc. etc. And Furthermore the saide Abbes and Convent have constituted theire well beloved in Christ, Thomas Holys and Richard Alice theire true and lawful attournies, etc., to deliver full and peasible possession and seasin thereof . . . for them and in theire name, etc., etc. Givyn in the Chapitre House of the saide Abbes and Convent the xviith day of the Moneth of December in the xixth year of the Reigne of our Soveraigne Lord Henry the VIIIth, by Goddes Grace King of England and of France, Defender of the Faithe and Lorde of Ireland.—Cressy." "August 3rd, 18 Elizabeth, Letters Patent, sub. priv. Sigillo." 1575. After Reciting at length the Grant from the Abbes and Convent of the Minories, etc., to Sir James Worsley, and Dame Anne, before written. Then noticing that the Rent of £56. 13*s.* 4*d.* was become the property of the Crown There follows a Release of all Conditions for re-entry and other Conditions contained in the said Grant—A Confirmation of the said Grant, But a reservation to the Crown of the Rent and Heryot reserved, which is to be paid on . . . under a Penalty for every default of £5. *Teste me ipsa apud Goramburg.*"

A century later the "fee farm rent of the manor is entered as £56. 13*s.* 4*d.*"[1]

Sir James Worsley was succeeded by his eldest son, Richard, "one of the ablest men of his race." As Captain of the Island, Richard Worsley was entrusted with the defence of the Isle of Wight. During his period of office the French made a descent on the Island, of which they desired to take possession, but were unsuccessful; for by the bravery of the Islanders they were speedily driven back to their ships with great loss. Sir Richard "was endowed with much tact; his representations as to the defenceless state of the Island at large were attended to with cheerfulness," and whatever he deemed necessary was immediately adopted. The brass field pieces, found attached to most of the parish churches in those days, were owing to his suggestions. Orders were issued in 1543 "that each parish should provide and maintain at its own cost a fawconet of brasse or yron for the general defence of the Island." Forts were erected in different parts to ensure the future security, and one of them is still called after him "Worsley's Tower." Sir Richard was one of the Commissioners appointed by the King to enquire into the state of the monastic establishments. Later on, in Edward VI's reign, he was one of the Commissioners for the sale of Church plate on the suppression of the religious houses, and consequently an active member in promoting the Reformation, and with other of the royal favourites of the time was enriched with the spoils of the church after the dissolution of the monasteries. His conduct must have been obnoxious to Queen Mary, and on her accession he prudently resigned all his offices. On the death of the Queen, Sir Richard was reinstated in the Captaincy of the Island, which he held till his death, being thought much of by Queen Elizabeth, and "lived in good repute, was a brave, stout, and worthie gentleman, but he dyed younge" in 1565. A monument to his memory was erected by his brother in Godshill Church, where he was buried, having over it the antique helm, crest, and gauntlets.

[1] *Cal. of Treasury Books*, 1672–5, p. 368.

By his will, dated December 27th, 1564, and proved 12th July, 1565, he appointed his brother, John, sole executor, leaving "The Manor of Appeldercombe, Cliffe, and Weeke, with all the stock, etc., to his wife, Ursula, during her widowhood," with several other properties, "and such portions of plate as his Executor shall select; she to give bond for safe re-delivery of the said plate, stock, etc.; £200 to his wife to begin house with, and if she marry, £500, her apparel and jewels, with the coffers for keeping the same."[1]

Sir Richard left two sons, minors, John and George. About nine months after his death the boys "beinge in ye lodge or gatehowse of Apledorcombe, where they went to scoole, the servantes were dryinge of powder there, agaynst ye genrall mowstor (in 1567), a sparkle flewe into ye dische that sett fyre of a barrell that stood bye, blewe up a side of ye gatehowse, killed ye two children (one beinge 8 and ye other 9 yeres of adge) and hurte some others."[2]

Lady Worsley, within the year, married Sir Francis Walsingham, the famous Elizabethan Secretary of State, when an inventory of the goods was taken. **(See Appendix).**

[1] *Hants N. & Q.*, vol. iii, p. 86. [2] Ogl., *Mem.*, p. 155.

Chapter VII.

OF STEEPHILL.

"A little onward, and, amidst such trees
As Claude or Wilson would have idoliz'd,
We come to Steephill.
Here, indeed, we find
The grand, the wild, the simple, the sublime,
Harmoniously mingled—here we view
The boundless sea, the still more boundless sky."[1]

Steephill has been so very intimately associated with all the material changes that have taken place in Ventnor and the surrounding neighbourhood during the past sixty years, that it is somewhat difficult to treat of one district apart from the others.

In an early 14th century map of the Island, Steephill and Ventnor though not explicitly mentioned by name, appear under the general denomination, "Wathe," a title used by one of the early de Lisle family.

The earliest reference made to Steephill occurs in a "compotus" or farm bailiff's account, rendered for the manor of Rewe, in the year 1272. The entry is—"de herietto Johanni de Stepeltone j bos"—that is, "John of Steepleton" is called upon to pay a "heriot," a feudal death duty, of one ox; which the heirs of a tenant were called upon to render to the lord of the manor on being admitted to the holding. The "Villa de Steple" is mentioned in the Feudal Aid of 1431, "John de Insula," owner of the property being assessed for it.

Till within a very recent period the Steephill estate was included in the parish of Godshill. The manor of Rewe, represented by the modern Rew farm, passed by on the way to Wroxall, was one of six manors, comprised in that extensive parish, of which it formed the southern boundary. It may very reasonably be conjectured that at one period Steephill formed part of the Rewe estate. It would seem difficult to explain otherwise how this strip of land—having an area of a hundred and twenty acres, came to be included within the boundaries of the Godshill parish.

This anomaly evidently attracted the attention of the Jury, appointed and sworn by virtue of a Commission, from his Highness, Thomas Cromwell, during his Protectorate—1653-8—concerning the uniting of parishes, etc., for the report says:—

"living aboute two Miles Distant from Whitwell, theire beinge Severall Familys called Steeple, of the Parish of Godshill—fitt to be united to St. Lawrence."

[1] Gwilliam, *Rambles in the I. of W.*, publ. 1844.

The Cottage at Steephill, belonging to the Right Hon. Hans Stanley, Governor of the Isle of Wight, circa 1770.

No action, however, would seem to have been taken, and the village remained a unit in the larger parish.

The manor of Rewe is enumerated in the earliest records as forming part of the possessions of the De Insula family. In the feodary, 8 Edward I (1280)—" dominus John de Insula holds in demesne the manors of Rewe, Bonechirche, Holeway. . . . ."

By failure of male issue, in 1524, the estate came to the Denys family, and later, for the same reason, to the Pophams. In 1770, the Steephill estate was purchased by the Rt. Hon. Hans Stanley, M.P. for Southampton, a member of an ancient Hampshire family, residing at Paultons, near Romsey. His father, Mr. George Stanley, had married a daughter and co-heiress of Sir Hans Sloane, the court physician. Mr. Hans Stanley was twice Governor of the Island, one of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, Cofferer of His Majesty's Household, and, according to Carlyle, was " a lively, clear-sighted person, a follower and trusty agent of the elder Pitt, as diplomatist, courtier, and politician, an upright, honest man, who endeavoured to do his duty both to his sovereign and his country."

No history is forthcoming of any house connected with the estate earlier than the year 1770. " The singularity of the situation "—writes Sir Richard Worsley—" tempted Mr. Stanley, soon after he became Governor of the Island, to build a cottage here, which is admirably contrived and most elegantly laid out."

Another reference to the cottage is found in a communication by an ingenious Mr. Sturch, and published in his early guide to the Island :—" A few miles further on will bring us to another place, equally, if not more frequented, for the same pleasurable purposes. The name of this is Steephill, late a chosen situation for a delightful villa built by the Rt. Hon. Hans Stanley, our then Governor."[1]

There is an earlier reference made, " to the cliffs in the vicinity (the backing of) Steephill an erect wall of rocky Stone of vast height and surprising Regularity considering it is a Work of Nature, has much the appearance of a Rampart, or Castle Wall, and as you view it a great Way together, you would almost imagine it to be the Offspring of human Labour in some ancient indefatigable Age."[2]

A few years later, Hassell, expressing in the somewhat inflated language of that day, his great satisfaction at permission having been granted him to view the cottage, goes on to say :—" The great hand of Nature seems to have judiciously selected this spot for exhibiting one of her grandest strokes. The entrance leading from the gates is lined on both sides with lofty elms and ashes, which form an avenue to the house, which is in the true cottage style, roofed with humble thatch; the inside for neatness and elegance, beggars description. It is at once so plain, so truly elegant, and, though, so small, so convenient and so pleasant, that I never met its equal. To enumerate the many delightful vicissitudes of this fairy ground is beyond the power of the pen. To show

[1] Sturch's *View of the Isle of Wight*, p. 118.
[2] Sturch's *I. of W. General Magazine*, publ. 1756.

how much we were charmed with the place, I cannot help making use of an expression of the late Mr. Quin: 'I thought I should have broke my neck in getting there; but when I was there I thought I should have broke my heart to leave it.'" Another feature, which still remains, is alluded to by Mr. H. P. Wyndham in 1783:—"Just before the windows of the west front, a beautiful spring of the most transparent water keeps a large stone basin, in the form of a scallop shell, perpetually full; and from hence a long display of the Undercliff, even to the little church of St. Lawrence appears in its proper splendour. The corn-fields are of larger extent than at St. Lawrence, and bear wonderful crops."[1]

The next writer in point of time was Albin, who, in 1795, speaks "of the fine situation of the village of Steephill, and particularly of the beautiful cottage of the Hon. Wilbraham Tollemache, almost everything which language can express or pen can describe has been said. But such a subject is exhaustless." Albin makes this further allusion:—"Many ravens build in the cliffs, and the falcon hawk is peculiar to them, being the only proper sort for the diversion of hawking."[2]

In the notes referring to Niton, this, the only true hunting hawk, is mentioned as building one nest, year by year, in the cliff there, in the time of Henry VIII., and being exclusively claimed as royal property. The brood, when reared, is invaribly expelled its native rock by the parents. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, a warrant was sent to Richard Worsley, of Appuldurcombe, to make diligent search for her Majesty's hawks in the Isle of Wight, which had been stolen "from the place where they bred on her Majestie's own lande," and also "for the persons faultie of this stealth and presumptuous attempt."

The Crown appears at that period to have possessed land at Niton; and it is not unreasonable to suppose that the hawks above referred to were ancestors to the Peregrines, which still build in the neighbourhood. Yarrell gives but one locality in the Isle of Wight where it breeds, but a pair of these once prized creatures has for a long period been in the habit of building in the high cliffs between the Sandrock Hotel and Blackgang. A brood from this pair, says Dr. Martin, came into my possession a few years since. In 1841, a pair of these noble birds built in the cliffs at the landslip at East End. The latest writer, in the *Victoria County History*, says:—"The Peregrine Falcon nests annually in the Freshwater cliffs, and attempts to do so most years in the Culver Cliff, and occasionally on St. Catherine's Point, though very rarely successful in bringing off its young."[3]

Tomkins says: "The next place you arrive at is Steephill. Mr. Tollemache possesses the most complete cottage on the south shore of this Island; for, although it has all the advantages of sea view, yet the glare is entirely taken off by the shade of a beautiful grove of trees surrounding the house." A few years later, in 1798, the Rev. W. Gilpin is somewhat captious in his remarks: "near Shanklin Chine, Mr. Stanley built

[1] *A Picture of the I. of W.*, p. 74.
[2] Albin, *Hist. I. W.*, pp. 560–562.
[3] V. C. H., *Birds*, vol. i, p. 223.

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a cottage among the rocks, where he enjoyed the sea-breezes in the heat of summer. It is called *Steephill;* and is built on a ledge of rock between the upper-cliff and the sea. The view in front is not unpleasing. It is a sort of a wild rocky valley, about half a quarter of a mile across, hanging over the sea, which appears abruptly beyond it, without the intervention of any middle ground. It exhibits generally a moving picture, presenting the track which ships, coasting the Island, commonly take. But though the situation of Undercliff or Steephill is pleasing we could not say much for what is called the *cottage.* It is covered, indeed, with thatch; but that makes it no more a cottage, than ruffles would make a clown a gentleman, or a meally hat would turn a laced beau into a miller. We everywhere see the appendages of junket and good living. Who would expect a fountain bubbling up under the windows of *a cottage* into an elegant carved shell to cool wine? The thing is beautiful, but out of place."[1] Sir H. Englefield, in his classic work, mentions Steephill "as seated on a terrace near the foot of the great cliff. Some wood and much rich shrubbery grows round the house, and adorns the masses of rock, which everywhere start from the uneven surface. One of these, called the 'Devil's Bridge,' is, in form, colour and position as romantic as can be conceived." The writer goes on to say—"The view of the ground descending to the sea, and the great ocean beyond it, is extremely fine. From the house, a path leads to the seashore, accompanied by the cascades of a pretty spring, and the cove in which it falls, called the Western lines, has afforded subjects for the pencils of many draftsmen, and is one of the most interesting spots on the whole shore."[2]

Tomkins, in 1796, has an engraving of the scene here described, called "Western Lines." These lines extend for half a mile to Orchard's Bay, St. Lawrence, as lofty cliffs of the sandstone and chert stratum, leaning forward in the most threatening manner, and is an excellent spot for the study of this stratum. A very interesting view of Steephill, with the rustic houses clustering below under the hillside, is given by Brannon, and dated 1821.

Mr. Hans Stanley died unmarried, and this property devolved, with other estates, to his two sisters, Lady Mendip and Mrs. Doyley, who later made it over to their nephew, Hans Sloan, Esq., M.P. for Newport. He eventually sold it to the Hon. Wilbraham Tollemache, who later became fifth Earl of Dysart. It was his favourite place of residence. At his death the estate passed to his sister, Lady Louisa Manners, who sold it to Mr. Hambrough, in 1828.

The estate when purchased by Mr. Hambrough, comprised two farms, known as "Steeple" and "Cook's." Steeple was the larger of the two holdings, with an area of a hundred and twenty-one acres, forty being downland. The present Ventnor Park, with the cliff lands facing the sea front, represents one of the fields, then known as "Odd Linches," derived from the Saxon linches, *i.e.,* the headlands of

[1] *Remarks on the Picturesque Beauties of the I. of W.*, p. 307.
[2] *Picturesque Account of the Island*, p. 74.

the ploughed fields or acre strips. Seebohm[1] points out that a peculiar feature of the open field system in hilly districts is the "lynch," and it may often be observed remaining when every other trace of an open field has been removed by enclosure. The banks between the plough-made terraces are generally called *lynches*.

"Cook's" farm was a smaller holding, of twenty-three acres, in the occupation of the same tenant farmer, and divided into six fields, varying in size: The houses on the north side of Park Avenue, stand on the site of one of the larger fields, reaching northwards, and in 1729 was known as "Gallows" cliff—later changed into "Jealous Cliff," and still later into "Gil's Cliff." The name is of interest, and, like the "Gallows Hill" in the adjoining township of Shanklin possibly denotes the place where the criminals were executed, a sorry reminder of the powers wielded by the manorial courts in earlier days. The present mansion is built on one of the larger fields known as "Wills." The lawn in front of the house reaching to the western boundary represents the other part of this enclosure.

> "Before you, fenced from each ungenial wind
> By lofty barriers,—by the beetling head
> In front, and by the craggy ridge behind,—
> Are lawns of light, 'twixt foliage darkly spread."[2]

After a short interval Mr. Hambrough razed the Dysart cottage to the ground and re-occupied the site by the present picturesque castellated building from the designs of Mr. James Sanderson, the restorer of Henry the Seventh's Chapel, Westminster Abbey. The gardens and grounds were laid out by Page, of Southampton, "where the variety of rare trees, plants, and tender exotics bear evidence that Steephill may be considered the most sheltered spot in the Undercliff." Mr. Paxton, the celebrated horticulturist, on seeing the view from the front of the house, remarked: "I have visited nearly every place of note from Stockholm to Constantinople, but never have I seen anything more beautiful than this." The beauty of the scenery and surroundings has given to Steephill the proud title of the "Gem of the Undercliff."

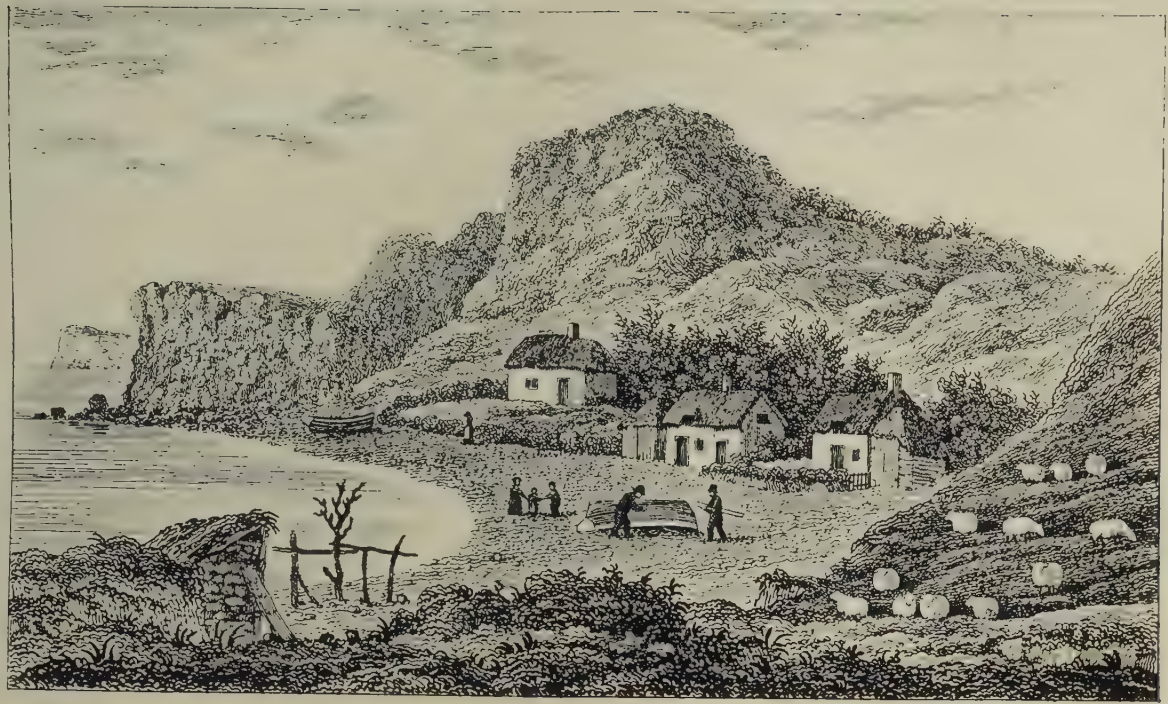
STEEPHILL COVE AND VILLAGE.

Writing, in 1790, Hassell remarks: "The people of the place are chiefly fishermen, who, in the summer season, take great quantities of crabs and lobsters. For this purpose some of them sink more than a hundred wicker pots or baskets, which they bait with whatever kind of flesh or garbage they can procure. And here it may not be improper to hint to the gentlemen of the Island that, whenever they lose a dog, they cannot seek first in a more likely spot!"[3]

It is evident from the following extract that the habit was not peculiar to the Steephill fishermen.

In the pages of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, for the year 1753, a

[1] *Village Community*, p. 5.
[2] Edmund Peel, canto v, f. 25, *The Fair Island*.
[3] *Tour of the I. of W.*, vol. i, p. 221.



Steephill Cove, 1821.

narrative is given of "A Journey to the Isle of Wight," and a reference is incidentally made to a large shepherd's dog seen standing outside the inn at Shanklin. The writer says:—"The dog had a melancholy look, because he had been given by his master to the fishermen that they might kill him to make crab-bait with," adding "that it was common to give old dogs for this purpose."

Mr. Thomas Webster, who visited the Cove in 1811, in one of his letters, says he "found the bay choaked up by a bank of rounded flint pebbles, called 'shingles'; but I was informed, that twenty years ago, it was covered with a beautiful sand like Sandown bay."[1]

At the foot of the steep and picturesque ravine, the precipice as it was called, now enclosed within the Castle grounds, stood a little group of thatched cottages clustered near the rustic inn kept by Mrs. Groves. The inn was a popular holiday resort, where small parties of visitors came for refreshments. Upon occasion three or four travellers might stay there for the night and meet with every accommodation. Mr. Wyndham, writing in 1790, says: "The spreading branches of a luxuriant fig tree sheltered us during our repast," and continues on—"A powerful spring of water breaks out in the village of Steephill, and quickly winding its impetuous way down a slope of considerable height, and from thence meandring to the brink of the sea-cliff, falls, in a little current of the purest element, perpendicularly upon the shore." This water power has now been utilised for domestic purposes.

The scene so depicted has changed. Mr. Hambrough, on acquiring the property, was anxious to get rid of the cottage tenements, and made an offer to the several tenants that he would build them cottages on any part of his Ventnor property. After a long demur the offer was accepted, and Dyer, Blake, and Simmonds, the forefathers of residents of to-day, moved into Ventnor. Dyer chose a site by the side of the Mill stream, where willows could be planted to make his crabpots, Blake had his cottage erected opposite, and Simmonds had his tenement built by the roadside, just beyond the farm buildings, where it could be seen until quite recently.

The old road, passing in front of the Castle entrance, led to the down above, and, by "Slovens Bush," to Newport. When I first used the road, in 1863, it then ran between the castellated garden walls and the grounds attached to the stables. Though the road had been closed to the public for some years, it was still existing in all its pristine roughness, used by carts belonging to the domain. It is a matter of surprise that it should ever have claimed the title of a public road; accidents on it were by no means of infrequent occurrence.

Wyndham, describing it, says:—"A verdant slope descends from a much higher elevation, and, in one spot, forces the road around it, to a very narrow and tremendous pass, upon the brink of a mouldering cliff, where a few ragged rails seem scarcely sufficient to protect the passengers from its danger, or at least from the apprehension of it."

[1] Englefield's *Isle of Wight*, p. 139.

This is doubtless the road referred to by a writer in 1794, as a "safe, though precipitous, coach road leading from the Downs to Steephill." It is very probable that this deeply-worn lane, leading to the ancient homestead and farm, is the same lane the Saxons used, and may be as old as the Romano-British period. A strong proof in favour of this supposition is furnished by the interesting paper published by the late Mr. Hodder Westropp, in the *Journal of the British Archæological Society,* of his discoveries in the garden of Steephill Castle and in the grounds above, close to the road in question, offering indubitable evidence of its use by a pre-historic race of people. It is not unlikely that the road, in earlier days, continued along the higher ground on the side of Wroxall Down by "Summers Lane," issuing thence near the Star Inn, and had been used as a pack road for centuries.

It was the custom of the Saxon people to have two kinds of roads, a four-foot for a single waggon-way and an eight-foot for a double-waggon, which still assorts with the dimensions of some winding country lanes of to-day. The pack horses travelled in lines laden with bundles or panniers, the baskets being about 3ft. in length, two in width, and two in depth. The horses' backs were padded, and the frames were suspended by hooks attached to a curved billet of wood, which crossed from side to side. The horses wore small globular bells of a pleasant tinkling sound—used for the purpose of warning any counter traffic in the narrow roads during the night and early morning. These bells, later on, were worn on the market teams of the farmers.

"Oh, the waggoner's life is a jolly life,
Yo ho, Igh oh!
He's up and away at the break of day,
Athirt the downs to the roaren towns,
Yo ho!
With a crick and a crack and a louster O!
To the zound o' the dancen bells!" *Maxwell Gray.*

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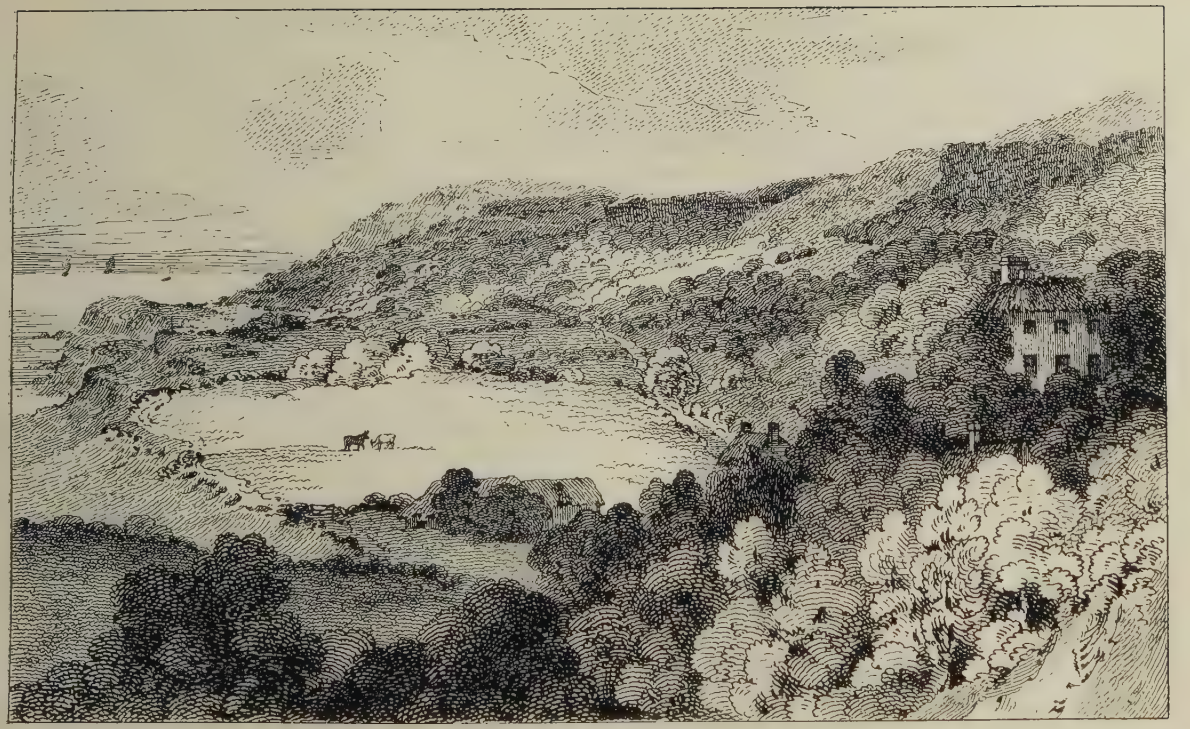
A View of Steephill Castle, Ventnor, 1910.



View of Steephill and St. Lawrence, 1808.

Chapter VIII.

OF ST. LAWRENCE.

"From Steephill, threading many a devious aisle,
Amidst the desolations of the past,
Huge mould'ring rocks and fragments that denote
Time's dreadful havoc, onward let us go
To where St. Lawrence rears its humble head,
Surrounded by the marvellous effects
Of nature's restless spirit."[1]

Lying immediately to the westward of the beautiful grounds of Steephill Castle is the small village of St. Lawrence, anciently called "St. Lawrence-under-wath."

"The situation," writes Sir R. Worsley in 1781, "is extremely romantic, the greatest part of it consisting of a slip or tract of land about a mile and a half in length, secluded on the north from the adjacent country, which lies very high above it, by a range of steep rocky cliffs, appearing in some parts like an immense stone wall." "The scene," says Mr. Pennant, in the grandiloquent phraseology of his day, "becomes rude and frightful; all the lower ground is uneven, formed from the ruins of the higher parts, yet it is finely cultivated (wheresoever the inequality will permit), in the small inclosures, interspersed with vast fragments of rocks."[2]

Running through the centre is the main road. This highway, it is needless to say, has been altered and almost re-made during the past half century, in order to adapt it to modern requirements. In the earlier days this was a narrow winding lane, commencing at the foot of Steephill shute, or precipice as it was then called, and leading thence to the tiny village a mile distant. The lane was closely covered with wood of flourishing growth, which quite embowered the road, and was so narrow and rugged in places that carriages were unable to pass by each other. Recesses, therefore, were cut into the bank every few hundred yards, and gates giving access to the several fields were placed across the road. At these points some of the more aged parishioners, of eighty years and upwards, were in attendance to open the gates, and perchance, by exciting the charitable dispositions of the numerous visitors, were thus enabled to augment the pittance received from the parish.

The grounds of the Royal National Hospital extend along the south side of the high road from "Love" lane (a footpath leading to the cliff

[1] Gwilliam, *Rambles in the I. of W.*, p. 75 (publ. 1844).
[2] Pennant, *A Journey from London to the I. of W.*, p. 185 (publ. 1795).

and the shore below) to "Bank End" and the farm so-called. Here a path through the farmyard leads to the sea cliff and the little cove marked on the Ordnance map as "Orchard's Bay." The road continues on along a tract described in early days as being extremely picturesque. "Surely," writes Mr. Penruddocke Wyndham, "nature never combined such a heterogeneous assemblage of her various features in so small a compass before!" Here, at the close of the 18th century, Sir Richard Worsley built "a neat and elegant building, which, though the roof be slated and the windows sashed, the fashion of the Isle of Wight requires to be called a cottage. It stands at a little distance below the road, having many natural groups of elm trees dispersed amid the rocky ground."[1] On the right a rude cart track and bridle-road leads through the Pelham Woods to the summit of the cliff.

In 1825 the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and in 1832 the Duchess of Kent, with the Princess Victoria, visited the Earl of Yarborough, coming round by sea and landing at St. Lawrence from the yacht. This spot was a favourite one with the Prince Consort, who often came to visit it, accompanied by the Queen and her children.

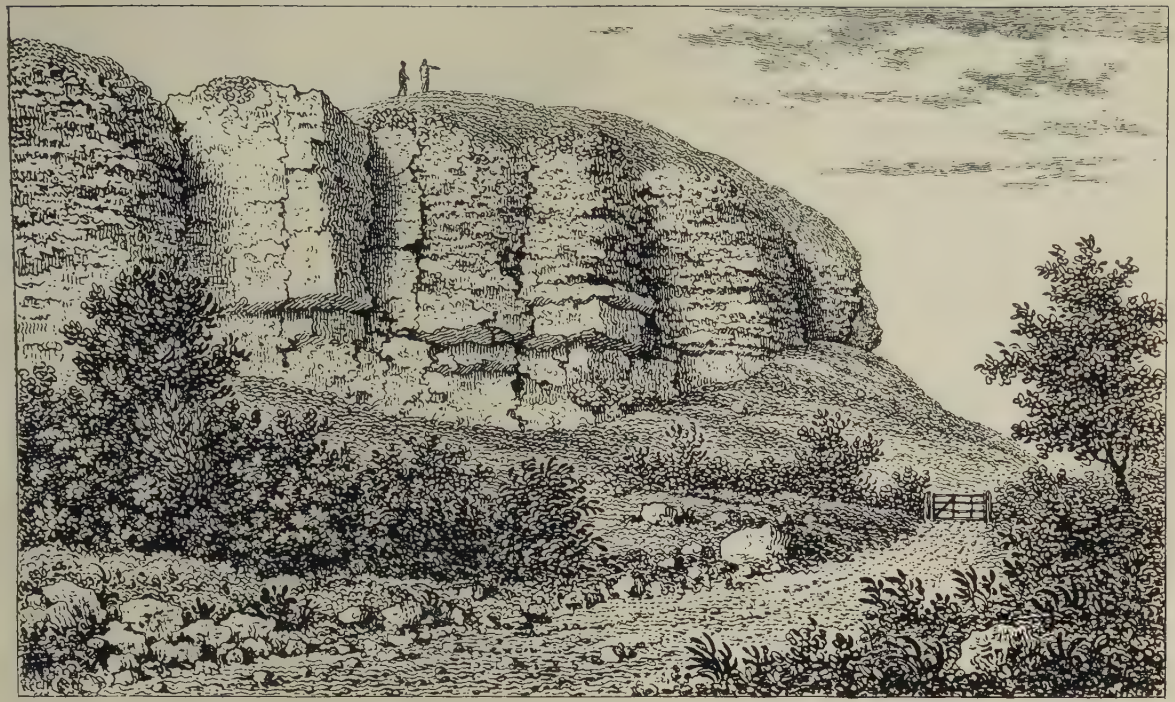
The locality, so far as the climate was concerned, seemed so suitable for grape culture, that in 1793 an attempt was made to raise a vineyard in this sunny spot. Two and a half acres of ground was prepared and planted with seven thousand vines, of two varieties, the white muscadine and the plante verdi. A considerable expenditure was incurred, a French *vigneron,* John Julin—a Breton—being hired to attend to their culture. John Green, in his Recollections, describes the specialist as a mere frame of bones when he came, and says he presented a droll appearance at first, attired in his French dress and large wooden shoes. He afterwards became very stout, and was noted as being the strongest man in the neighbourhood.

Early records show that wine was frequently made from grapes grown in this country. The Glastonbury Abbey Rolls contain references to the labour services in the Abbey vineyards. Traces of one attached to Westminster Abbey is preserved in the name of an adjoining street, "Vine Street." Complaints were made "that successive Constables of the Tower had encroached on land at East Smithfield, in order to make a vineyard there."

The result of the experiment was a failure; the spray from the sea had a prejudicial effect on the plants, the wine proved inferior in quality, and the vineyard was rooted up before 1808.

In the grounds of the cottage a miniature fort was built. The guns mounting it are said to have been cast during the French Revolution from bells originally belonging to a church at Nantes, which was rifled of them. A privateer, having the guns on board, was captured by an English frigate after a running fight, which took place off the island opposite the spot where the guns are placed. The King presented them to Sir Richard Worsley.

[1] *A Picture of the I. of W.*, p. 71 (publ. 1794).



A View of the Undercliff near St. Lawrence, 1821.

An interesting memento of the engagement, in the shape of a cannon ball, was found quite recently embedded in the chalk cliffs. Two other similar relics are to be seen at the Ventnor Institute, both of which were washed out of the cliffs on the sea front. "One is an 18-pounder cannon ball, which, by breaking in half, has disclosed a perfect 7-pound ball inside it. The other is a specimen of chain-shot having a 7-pound ball at each end. The length is about fourteen inches."

The road at this point was, in earlier days, very steep and narrow, and, owing to the increased carriage traffic passing down the hill, had become so dangerous that in 1864 the road was diverted to the right and no longer leads down to the spring, sparkling beneath a little Gothic shrine, known as St. Lawrence's Well. The spring takes its rise in a corner of the common some forty yards north of the highway. The water formerly ran across the pathway as an open stream. Mr. Pelham caused it to be conveyed in pipes under the road, whence it issues from a dolphin's mouth into a wide shell, and thence ripples away through the grounds to the cliffs, where it falls as a cascade into the sea. From the earliest times this well was dedicated to St. Lawrence, as the one on Boniface Down was hallowed to St. Boniface, but, unlike its sister spring at Ventnor, no garb of romance invests the sparkling waters with supernatural qualities.

Soon after passing the spring a group of elm trees, colloquially known as the "Seven Sisters," is reached, and here the road divides. Until the year 1857 the old road ascended, or rather climbed, the steep and narrow "Shute," having the parochial school on the right and the Home farmstead on the left. The road, it is needless to say, has undergone many changes, having been lowered and widened on several occasions, to adapt it to the exigencies of modern stage coach and other traffic, but all in vain. A new, and by avoiding the hill, a more convenient road has been constructed, along which the main traffic has been diverted.

The "Home Farm" stands on what is conjecturally believed to have been the site of the "aula," or the manorial residence of the De Aula family seven or more centuries ago. The hollow depression to the north of the house, with the fine elm trees standing on the bank side, possibly denotes the site of the fish pond found near ancient manorial residences. A little distance beyond, near the summit of the hill, stands the tiny church of St. Lawrence, at first probably a chapelry attached to the mansion. The ivy-mantled thatched cottages, with their low shelving roofs and time-worn walls, which are near the church, early in the last century gave the little village its special charm. Many of the cottages have been pulled down; one or two only remain, and they, in turn, will soon disappear. Many of the trees have also been felled, so with these and other allied changes the quaint old village has lost something of its former romantic aspect.

"This is one of the places," remarks Englefield, "where improvement has in a great measure destroyed natural beauty; yet the shady

little groves, and the views of the ocean through their boughs, with the bubbling streams that wind round the roots of the trees, give a fairy character to the whole place, which it would require uncommon ingenuity totally to destroy."[1] Those personally visiting the locality must decide how far modern additions, in the guise of blank walls and houses, have detracted from its rural charms and pristine beauty.

The road continues on, passing the little church, and ascending the steep hill called in the vernacular, "*The Shute,*" through one of the passes of the Undercliff to Whitwell, and the centre of the Island. This road was cut through the rocky barrier by one of the Worsley family, and has been lowered at various periods, in consequence of the many serious and fatal accidents occurring from its steepness. The "untimely death" of a man of over 90 years is recorded on a tombstone in the Old Churchyard close by!

"A little beyond the church, in a dell, marked by a small tuft of beautiful young ash trees, there is," says Englefield, "a most singular echo, which, to a person standing there, repeats the noise of carriage wheels from a small distance, with a roaring which appears to issue from the overhanging cliffs. Even the sound of the wings of crows and daws flying near the rocks is repeated as a loud rushing noise."[1]

OF THE PARISH, ETC.

The parish is the smallest in the Isle of Wight, comprising, with the four fields situated above the upper cliff, some 328 acres. Some evidence of the presence here of a prehistoric race is shown by the discovery in the grounds of Underwath, of a "kitchen midden" containing a cooking stone over a heap of charcoal and ashes. Other discoveries have been mentioned in an earlier chapter (pages 14 and 23). At a meeting of the Society of Antiquaries in April, 1880, Mr. Hodder M. Westropp exhibited "a rude iron bar (in three pieces), one of two which had recently been discovered in the cleft of a rock, six feet under the ground at St. Lawrence." In the report a woodcut is annexed, and the sketch shows "the object tapers towards a point at one end, and the other is pinched or curved out, so as to form a kind of tang or handle. It seems probable that these bars were intended to be afterwards forged into swords. They have frequently been found in England."[2]

Mr. Reginald A. Smith, of the British Museum, refers to the bars found here in a paper on the "Ancient British Iron Currency," read at a meeting of the Society in January, 1905. In his paper he said: "These bars have been known for many years, but for want of a more convincing explanation have gone under the name of unfinished or unforged sword-blades, and have received no special attention. An important point is that such bars have often been found secreted in considerable numbers, in a manner recalling the familiar hoards of coins. They have been found in the centre of British camps, and it

[1] *Picturesque Views of the I. of W.*, p. 75.
[2] *Proc. Soc. of Antiq.*, 2nd Ser., vol. viii, p. 313.

seems much more probable that the ancient Britons would conceal their money at a crisis than that they would bury half-made swords. It must be remembered that in such a society division of labour was not in an advanced stage; the smith who shaped these bars would have himself produced the finished article, if swords they were to be. He would not have produced a large number to hand on to another for the finishing process. Again, there is too much metal in them for the manufacture of the sword of the period, which had a thin blade and a slender rounded tang for a wooden handle, the entire length being only 27 inches. Perhaps the strongest argument I can adduce in favour of my contention is that there was a smaller series of the same form, evidently meant to represent half the value of the ordinary specimen, and a larger series, four times the weight of the smallest."[1]

The assertion that these bars were currency bars was evidently novel in 1905, when the above paper was read. Further information bearing on the subject will be found in a later volume of the Proceedings,[2] and it may be said the bars were of a pre-Roman period.

Although no reference to St. Lawrence is entered in Domesday Book, there is evidence of the little village of St. Lawrence having been a settled place of human habitation during the Saxon period. The proof of this is furnished in an Assize Roll, 40 Henry III (1255), "where reference is made to the 'vill' and 'tithing' of St. Lawrence, one Robert de Whytewell having slain Henry Etene in the vill of St. Lawrence and being accordingly outlawed."[3] The term "vill," referred to here, is the oldest employed to denote tracts of land. It is always found in the pre-Conquest charters, its English equivalent being "tun." "From the charters we deduce that 'vill' implies a tract of territory, greater or smaller, as the case may be, bearing a name of its own, and defined by certain well-known boundaries. But the vill was more than a tract of land; it was the home of an organised community," and "its members were bound to follow the same rules for the cultivation of their land, and for the regulation of the pasture and wood. A vill thus constituted was a fiscal and administrative unit. The laws of Henry I provide that each vill shall be represented at the hundred moot by the priest, the reeve, and six of the villans."[4] The term "tithing," a tenth, denoted the number of freemen, heads of families, who were sureties for each other, to the King, and his people. Gardiner writes:—"The smallest political community of the new settlers (the English) was the village, or as it is commonly called, the township, which is still represented by the parish, the parish being merely a township in which ecclesiastical institutions have been maintained, whilst political institutions have ceased to exist. The freemen of the township, *i.e.*, the village, met to settle small questions between themselves, under the presidency of their reeve or headman. More important questions were brought before the hundred moot, or meeting of the hundred, a district which had been inhabited, or was supposed to have been inhabited either

[1] *Proc. Antiq. Soc.*, 2nd Ser., vol. xx, p. 184.
[2] *Ibid.*, 2nd Ser., vol. xxii, p. 337.
[3] Odell, *Proc. H.F.C.*, vol. iv, p. 62.
[4] Ballard, *Domesday Inquest*, p. 45.

by a hundred kindred groups of the original settlers or by the families of a hundred warriors."[1]

The manor, it may be stated here, is a less ancient institution than either the village or parish, and may be said to have come in with and in consequence of the Norman Conquest. "A 'manor' in pre-Conquest times," writes Ballard, "was an estate possessing a hall and demesne, and containing inhabitants of the villan class; after the Conquest it was an estate managed as an administrative unit."[2]

The earliest authentic incident known in connection with St. Lawrence is furnished in a second Assize Roll of earlier date—1236—than the one already referred to, giving the name of a chaplain of St. Lawrence residing here "since the year 1201." Roger, then a chaplain of St. Lawrence, was accused at an Assize, held at Winchester, in 1236, of having unlawfully dispossessed one Gervase, of Ulwardeston, of a free tenement in Underwath since the year 1201. Roger refused to appear on the ground that he was chaplain, and judgment went against him by default.

Some light is thrown on the condition of the parish by the list of taxpayers given in what are known as the Rolls of the Lay Subsidies. There is a Roll for the tax known as the "twentieth," granted in 1327, and the names of seventeen resident householders are given in the Roll. The *twentieth* was the assessment of the value of all the moveable goods of every person, the clergy excepted, and enables some conclusion to be drawn of the wealth and status of the taxpayers then living in the district. The first named on the list, Theobald Russel, paying ten shillings. The value of his movable effects was thus £10. The whole contents of a house then consisted of mean articles of furniture, of home manufacture, a three-legged stool or two, or a settle, and a little rude earthenware crockery. The most valuable things were copper or brass pots, and common iron utensils. An insight is thus obtained as to the material prosperity of certain of the householders.

SUBSIDY ROLL, 1st Edward III, 1327, 173–4, Suth't.

"Villata de Wathe."

Ð Theobaldo Russel	x s̃	Ð Rog'o le Kyng	xij d̃
Roberto Merable	xij d̃	Reb'ca le White	iij s̃
Alex'o le Shorte	vij d̃	Rog'o le Longe	xij d̃
Galf'ro le Mul	xij d̃	Joh'e Baron	xv d̃
Ric'o Donnyngeworth	ix d̃	Ad' Perys	ij s̃
Rob'to Irlond	vij d̃	Will'o Upehulle	xj d̃
Will'o Cordray	iij s̃	Joh'e Calyorn	xij d̃
Joh'e le Neurve	xv d̃	Will'o de Holeway	xviij d̃
Will'o Upehulle	xviij d̃		

Summa xxxj s̃ iv d̃

The names mentioned in this Roll support the contention that "Wathe" was a district, comprising the lands "under the cliff" from Merable, situated at the western boundary to Holeway, on the east, adjoining Bonchurch.

[1] S. R. Gardiner, *Students' Hist. of England*, vol. i, p. 31.
[2] Ballard, *Domesday Inquest*, p. 60.

LAY SUBSIDY ROLL, 20th Edward III, 1346.

(Aid was for Knighting the King's eldest son).

"HUNDREDO DE ESTMEDEINE."

"Alianora Russel tenet in Everlond et alibi unius feodi et 3tiam partem dimidi feodi quod fuit Willelmi Russel."

Translation :—

"Eleanora Russel holds in Yaverland and elsewhere i fee and the third part of half a fee which was of William Russel."

The lady on whom the levy was made was the widow of Sir Theobald Russel, who had been killed in the French raid a few years previously.

LAY SUBSIDY ROLL, 6 Henry VI, 1428.

On the 25th of March the Commons made a grant to the King. The second part of the grant was a tax on parishes throughout England graduated in proportion to the sums at which their respective churches were taxed for ecclesiastical tenths. No parish of fewer than ten persons was to be taxed. Where the value of the church was under ten marks the parish was assessed at 6*s*. 8*d*. The return made by the jurors at the inquisition for St. Lawrence parish reads thus :—

"Capella Sancto Laurencii de Wath. Non sunt decem inhabitantes, domicilia tenentes in parochiis . . . ."

The purport being there were not ten resident inhabitant householders in the parish.

The third part of the grant consisted in a levy of 6*s*. 8*d*. on every knight's fee. The inquisition, as in the preceding instance, was taken at Newport, before John Haket and Thomas Deepdene and a jury :—

"Ducissa Clarencie et Johannes Laurence tenent i f'm. et dim' f'm. in Ev'erlond, Robourgh, et Wathe, quod Alianore Russel quondam tenuit."[1]

Translation :—

"The Duchess of Clarence and John Lawrence hold one Knight's fee and half a fee in the manors of Yaverland, Roboro, and Wathe which Eleanora Russel sometime held."

This return was similar to the one made a century earlier.

SUBSIDY ROLL, 9th Henry VI, 1431.

In this year Parliament voted a tax to be levied at the rate of twenty shillings per knight's fee, the smallest portion taxable being a tenth. The return for the district was :—

"Prefatus Radulphus Dynelay seisitus fuit ut de libero tenemento, dicto die Veneris de viij^vam parte feodi militar. in Suth-Wathe in insula predicta."

That is to say :—"The aforesaid Ralph Dyneley was seised of one-eighth of a Knight's fee in South-Wathe."

The estate being that of Wolverton-under-Wathe, formerly held by John de Wolverton, as entered in the *Testa de Nevill.*

The return for the Russel estate, formerly held by the De Aulas, was as follows :—

"Johannes Juyn, miles, et capitalis baro de scaccario domini regis et socii sui, feoffati Radulphi Russel, militis seisiti fuerunt, ut de libero tenemento

[1] *Inq. & Ass. re Feudal Aid*, vol. ii, 1284–1431, p. 353.

de iij partibus ij f'm. ac de ij partibus medietatis f'm. in Everlond, South-Wathe, et Roweburgh in insula vecta."

"Johannes Laurence de Asshle, armiger, seisitus fuit. . . . ."

LAY SUBSIDY, 36 Henry VIII, 173–243, Sutht'.

The particulars of this Roll have already been given (see p. 81) :—

St. Lawrence.

John Odnett	viij s̃
Richard Blo	xv s̃
John Prowte	x s̃
Summa £1. 13*s*.	

Two of the names in the assessment will be recognised as being the parish churchwardens in *re* "Sale of Church goods" in this and the ensuing reign, particulars of which are given on page 107.

LAY SUBSIDIES, 2–3 Edward VI, 174–347, 1547-8.

Taxation of Bonchurch, Chenkling and St. Larance.

John Newman	goodes xxli	x s̃ (tax)
Richard Newland	„ xxli	xij s̃ (tax)
Nicolas Coleman	„ xijli	x s̃ (tax)
—— Rodwell	„ xli	

Four names only are given in the list.

LAY SUBSIDIES, 39th Elizabeth, 174–433, 1596.

In this Roll Whitwell and St. Lawrence are joined together, and twelve names of parishioners are entered (see Whitwell). The whole proceeds of the tax paid into the Exchequer from the Island amounted to £296. 18*s*. 8*d*.

LAY SUBSIDIES, 17 Car. i., 175–455, 1642.

This return furnishes an interesting list of local contributors.

St. Lawrence.

Sir Henry Worseley, Bart.	i li x s̃	Philip Orchard	iv s̃ vj d̃
Henry Cooke	ix s̃	John Markett	iij s̃ vj d̃
Robert Nutkins (? Yockins), cler.	xj s̃	Richard Coleman	viij s̃
Bartho' Jacob	vj s̃ vj d̃	Widd. Harvey	j s̃ vj d̃
Richard Dyer	vj s̃ vj d̃	John Lavender	iij s̃
Edward Kingatt	vj s̃ vj d̃	Summa iiij li x s̃	

In an *Inquisition*, held in 1461, the manor is returned as worth ten pounds annual value. The following extract relating to the parish in the reign of Charles I is taken from "The Rates or Assessments made for raising Ship money and Subsidies :—St. Lawrence, Ship Rates, £4. 5*s*. 0*d*. ; Last Subsidy Rates, £4. 10*s*. 0*d*. ; Present ditto, £4. 5*s*. 0*d*. ; total value of parish per annum, £190. 0*s*. 0*d*." The value in 1858 is returned as £708. In 1869, £949, and in 1896, £1,906.

The population of the parish remained stationary for some centuries. Worsley gives the number of inhabitants in 1781 as 86, twenty years later this number had fallen to 76. In 1831 a slight advance to 78, 42 males and 36 females, was made. The inhabited houses then num-

bered thirteen, with one other small erection, building, and nine of the families were engaged in agriculture. In 1851 the census gives 141 inhabitants as being resident in the parish, and in 1901, 361 and 37 inhabited houses.

The "Home" and "Bank End" farms, with the glebe land, constituted the modern parish. At an earlier period another small farm is referred to, for in the "Nona Rolls," of 1341, a juror for the parish was "Johannes le Mount." An indenture, dated 1620, gives particulars of "the sale by Richard Hollis, of Newport, I. of W., of a messuage or tenement, known as 'Mount's Farm,' to Richard Coleman, in consideration of the payment of 'the sum of one hundred, fourscore and seventeen pounds of lawful money.'" On the Ordnance map a little cove marked as Mount's Bay, is situated a short distance to the westward of the small battery, where the ground rises into a mound, and here the little farmstead was probably situated. The coastguard utilised the mound for signalling purposes. John Green, in his recollections, mentions five preventive men, as the coastguards were first called, coming here, in 1818, and being stationed at Reynold's farm cottage, since absorbed in the villa residence of the Hon. Mrs. Pelham Sinclair. The rose-covered lodge entrance is one of the few early primitive village tenements remaining. The buildings in the cove were transformed later into Admiralty stores, the station being moved, in 1855, further westwards to Hoody Point, a part of Wrong's Farm, in Whitwell parish. At very low tides the foundations of the houses, left by the encroachments of the sea, can still be seen. This coastguard station was one of the earliest erected to control the contraband trade, which attained to such a height during the earlier part of the last century.

One of the small cottages in the lower part of the village, once used as the village post office, during the 18th century was widely known as the "smugglers' retreat," and kept open as a shebeen or "pop" shop, where smuggled spirits could be obtained at a cheap rate. Being an unlicensed house, it was closed later by the lord of the manor. A legendary story attaches to the house, connected with the little spring of water, still seen issuing from a recess in the stone wall, close to, but below the ground level of the house. The story is as follows:—"At the base of the down above and on its northern aspect, is a farmstead placed in the valley and situated a short distance off the road to the right, leading from St. Lawrence to Whitwell. In the farm yard is the usual pond, on which a brood of ducks—one of these being a fancy breed—were accustomed to swim about and disport themselves. One morning the latter was missing, and early next day it was reported that the missing duck had been found lying in an exhausted condition by the spring near the cottage. From this fact it was positively asserted that the duck had fallen into the well at the farm, and found its way underground to St. Lawrence, a mile and a half distant." From this circumstance, the house obtained its later name as the "Duck." The sign of the "Dog and Duck" was a common public house sign in the 17th century, and had reference to a sport in vogue at that period, which

consisted in seeing ducks hunted in a pond by spaniels. The pleasure arose from watching the bird escape from the dog's mouth by diving.

The house obtained further notoriety from being the residence of a well-known and successful leader in the local contraband trade, and thither all the local free traders resorted. Captain H——— maintained intimate relations with the opposite coast, crossing the Channel frequently in his dealings with France and Holland. A story is told which throws a side-light on the social aspects of village life at this period. A vessel—commonly known as a "Dutch Dogger"—lay anchored off the shore fronting the village one Sunday morning and attracted the villagers on board, for the purpose of obtaining spirits, or, possibly to aid in removing the cargo. When the minister arrived for the usual service, the clerk said: "It be no use opening th' church, all th' folks be gone aboard the dogger." The clerk was an old man named Thos. Paine, living at the "Duck" public-house. His successor, "old John Green," combined the office of parish clerk with that of schoolmaster. He was widely known for his poetical effusions, and currently credited with maintaining more than a passively sympathetic relation with the contrabandists of the day. There was no church-house, and old John occupied the cottage still standing nearly opposite the church. This served a double purpose as vestry and schoolroom. Here, the rector had to robe himself, putting on a white surplice over his black gown. The arrangements for the religious service were of the primitive type customary in small parish churches at that period. The pulpit and reading desk were combined and the clerk sat under. The rector led the singing, and after reciting the first verse of the hymn before the sermon, disappeared from view, sitting down on a low stool, to disrobe himself of the white surplice and to reappear in the black gown in which he concluded the service.

During the week the clerk acted as the village schoolmaster, and was, in his own estimation, no mean poet. His well-known lines "On St. Lawrence Church," etc., are only rivalled by another of his effusions relating to the Parish, beginning:—

> "Now I've described the church and burial ground,
> Next let us view the little parish round"—

—lines which I believe are to be found printed with his other Recollections.

Quite a colony of old retainers of the Yarborough and Worsley families lived in the cottages, small retiring pensions having been given to them when their working days were past. One of them, named Johanna Lovegod, of Italian or Greek nationality, formerly employed as a gardener at Appuldurcombe, had on one occasion palmed off a keg of water in place of the smuggled brandy for which money had been advanced. Sir Richard Worsley, on hearing the story, said the man ought to be shot. On being told of this, Johanna was met going out with a loaded gun, to ascend a tree by the roadside, with the avowed intention of having, as he said, the first shot when his lordship went by. Another of the pensioners, Bob Coleman, had been coachman to Lord

Yarborough, and succeeded John Green in his office as clerk. He was generally in attendance with cup and glass at St. Lawrence Well, until the well and road were closed to the public in 1864. He was slightly lame, and being somewhat deaf he would exhort the visitors attending the service, in what he thought was a subdued tone, "to sit just a little nigher, will 'e." He was very irate if anyone ventured into the Pelham pew, saying "just come out of that now," in a voice that might be heard a mile off. Like the other villagers, he was a "free trader" as far as smuggling was concerned. On one occasion he was carrying home some of the spoils, in the shape of tubs slung over his shoulder, when he saw his lordship coming. He promptly sat down, spreading his smock frock over the kegs of spirits, pleading his lameness as the excuse for thus resting himself, and so remained stationary till the coast was clear.

It is of interest to learn that John Newnham, one of the old villagers, and himself a humble disciple of St. Crispin, was a lineal descendant of a former rector of the same name who preached in the Old Church during Cromwell's time, and was ejected for Nonconformity in 1662.

Another veteran was James Roach, who placed himself at the foot of Whitwell Shute, and though no longer able to open the gate, by denoting his great age on a board, hoped to excite the pity of the passing stranger and receive his charitable mite. He died, June, 1852, at the age of 92. On Whit Monday of that year the old man walked from his home at Whitwell into Newport, a distance of eight and a half miles, and back again. The exertion proved too much for his powers, for he never recovered from the fatigue, and gradually sank, dying after a few days' illness.

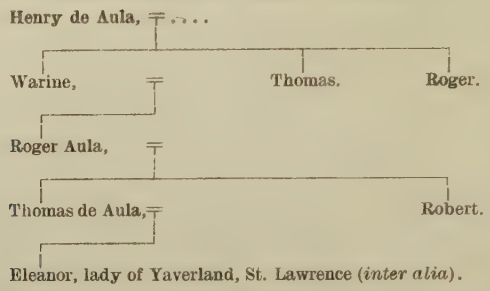
OF THE MANOR LORDS.

No documentary evidence is forthcoming to show who was the first manor lord after the Conquest, in 1066. The Domesday Book, compiled twenty years later, is silent on this point, for no reference to St. Lawrence is contained in the Record. A strong inference may be drawn that the manor was first held by William, son of Azor, and grouped with his adjoining estates of Steephill and Holeway, under the general name of "Underwath" or "Underway."

The manor was held later by the De Aulas, a family who came prominently into notice during the first half of the 12th century. The ancestor is believed to have come in the train of Richard de Redvers to the Island, probably from "Aula," a district in Normandy. There is no evidence on record to show how the De Aulas obtained possession of the Manor, but it is conjecturally supposed that it came to them by marriage with a daughter of Fitz Azor parentage, the estate being given as part of her marriage dower.

Guarinus, or Warin de Aula, is the name of the earliest member of the family mentioned in Island records. Wiffen, in his "Historical Memoirs of the Russel family," gives at page 143 the name of Henry De Aula in his lineage of the De Aulas.

PEDIGREE OF THE "DE AULA" FAMILY ACCORDING TO WIFFEN.



Since no other reference is given, and, as the subsequent descent set forth in the pedigree by him is manifestly erroneous, it would seem right to place Warine as the first known Island resident.

"GUARINUS DE HALLA" is mentioned in the "Carta Fundationis"[1] of Richard (2) de Redvers, *circa* 1156, as one of the Island landowners who contributed to the further endowment of the chapel of St. Nicholas in Castro, in Carisbrooke Castle, in memory of the great earl Baldwin, whose companions they had probably been—"that masses might be said for the repose of their lord's soul." Worsley styles them—"the chief men of the Island, his barons."

Several charters bearing his attestation are in evidence.

(*a*) As "Guarinus de Aula," to the grant of Shalflete Mill, *c.* 1155–62.[2]

(*b*) A declaration that he witnessed "the gift of Sueia," by Hugo de Witvilla, to Quarr Abbey. The declaration was made, probably by 1158.[3]

(*c*) As "Guarin de Hall," the Confirmation Charter of Henry II, *c.* 1162–3.[4]

(*d*) He seems to be the person referred to in the following record:—"1 John (1200). Sudhamtoñ. Assisa inter Robertum de Insula tenentem et Warinum de Aula petentem de terra de Mordestan ponatur in respectum sine die quamdiu Brianus filius Roberti fuerit in servicio domini Regis ultra mare per preceptum ipsius Regis."[5]

A further respite, 4 John, on the same ground is entered.[6] The plaint is of interest also, since it refers to lands at Motteston—a Fitz Azor holding in 1086.

"ROGER DE AULA" succeeds, and was, according to Wiffen, a son of Guarinus, but of such relationship no confirmatory evidence is supplied in any known Island charter.

Several deeds were witnessed by him, covering the period between 1177 and 1196—

(*a*) As "Roger de Aula," he witnessed the charter granted by Richard de Redvers, between 1177–1184, to his "novo burgo," or new town of Medina.[7]

(*b*) He attests as "Rogero de Aula"—jointly with his son, "et Thoma filio ejus" a grant of land, at Wellow, made by William de Vernon, *circa* 1187–9, to Quarr Abbey.[8]

[1] W., *App.*, No. 51.
[2] *Ibid.*, No. 54.
[3] *Ibid.*, No. 59.
[4] *Ibid.*, No. 53.
[5] Palgrave, *Rotuli Curiæ Regis*, vol. ii.
[6] *Harleian MS.*, 301, f. 88.
[7] W., *Hist. I. W.*, p. 147.
[8] W., *App.*, No. 65.

(*c*) As "Rogero de Aula," he witnessed a further de Vernon charter notifying that—"for the weal of his soul . . . . he approves the gift made by his grandmother, Adeliza de Redvers, of the manor of Wolvesley (Ouvelay), in Berkshire, to the abbey of Montebourg." (The date of the deed is *circa* 1196).[1]

(*d*) "Roger de Aula, Thomas his son"—witnessed 27 Nov., 1213—"a charter, whereby William de Redvers, earl of Devon, in frank almoin, granted to the canons of Christchurch, Twynham, the gifts which Baldwin, his father and Richard his brother made to them."

"THOMAS DE AULA," son and heir of Roger, in addition to the de Vernon charter referred to, witnesses other deeds, ranging over the period 1184-1228.

(*a*) *Circa* 1199. "Thomas de Aula," as over-lord, confirms a deed of Will' de Parco granting land at Briddelsford.[2]

(*b*) *Circa* 1206. Thomas de Aula witnesses two deeds of John de Marisco, rector of Brading—(1) a lease to Walter Tooke. (This deed is assigned to 1190, the more probable date, however, is *c.* 1206.) (2) A grant made to James Curci, 7 John.[3]

(*c*) In 1208, attests as "Thoma de Aula" a deed of Walter Motte, bearing this date. (Reference is made to him in the deed as over-lord.)[4]

(*d*) Between 1221–25 "Tho' de Aula" witnesses the charter of Geoffrey de Insula, granting land to Quarr Abbey.[5]

(*e*) He witnessed as "Thoma de Aula" a finely executed deed, in small writing, being a grant made by William de Redvers to "God's House," at Southampton. (This deed is in Queen's College, Oxon.)[6]

(*f*) He further witnessed as "Thoma de Aula" a deed, conjointly with his son "Rogero filio ejus," of Henry de Clavill giving land to Quarr Abbey. (The date of this deed can be shown as between the years 1206–1228, rather than *circa* 1158 usually assigned to it.)[7]

"SIR ROGER DE AULA, KNT.", son and heir, succeeded, witnessing in addition to the foregoing charter, other deeds appertaining to the De Insula, and to the De Estur families.

(*a*) As "Rogero de Aula," he attests a charter of Geoffrey (2) de Insula. (This deed is generally assigned to the *temp.* of Stephen, but the more probable date is later, after 1228).[8]

(*b*) Attests, as a Knight, a deed of lady Matilda de Estur's. (Her husband being dead, the date of this deed must be after 1256.)[9]

SIR THOMAS DE AULA, KNT., son and heir succeeded to the estates. He attests different charters covering the period 1263-1282.

(*a*) *Circa* 1263, as "Thoma de la Haulda" he witnesses lady Isabella de Fortibus' charter to Newport.[10]

(*b*) In 1265, "Thomas de la Haule" served as a juror in the plaint "King *versus* Adam le Despencer."

(*c*) *Circa* 1275, "Thomas de la Haule" was a signatory to the foundation charter of Barton Oratory.[11]

(*d*) In 1279, he attested as "Thom' de la Haula" a charter of the countess Isabella de Fortibus, granting (*inter alia*) to the abbey of Quarr, exemption from paying toll.[12] (The deed was made at Norwich, 29 Nov., 7 Edward I.)

[1] *Cal. Doc. France*, vol. i, p. 321.
[2] W., *App.*, No. 32.
[3] *Pipe R.*, 7 John.
[4] W., *App.*, No. 68.
[5] *Ibid.*, No. 58.
[6] *Hist. MSS. Com.*, App. to Report IV, p. 454.
[7] W., *App.*, No. 56.
[8] *Ibid.*, No. 58.
[9] *Ibid.*, No. 76.
[10] *Ibid.*, No. 21.
[11] Bishop Woodlock, *Inspeximus.*
[12] *Add. MS.*, No. 24,789, p. 204 (Br. Mus.).

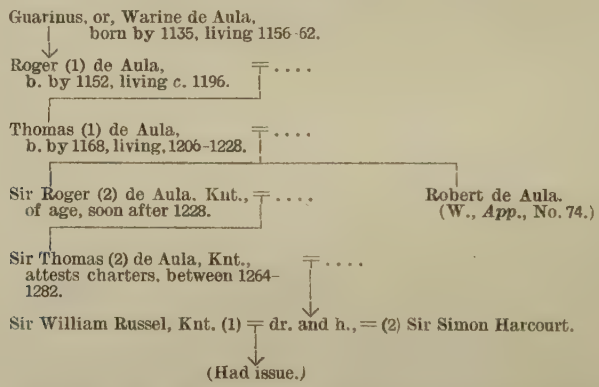
(*e*) In 1280, "Thomas de la Haula" was one of the plaintiffs in an action tried by "quo warranto" before the Itinerant Justices, 8 Edward I, *in re* "wreck of the sea."[1]

(*f*) In the same year, "Thomas de la Haule, mil." witnessed a charter whereby Eleanor, queen of England, with the consent of her husband, King Edward, gave to Sir John de Weston and his wife Christina, the manor of Middleton in the Isle of Wight.[2] (The deed is dated, at Dunamenel, 20 March, 8 Edw. I.)

(*g*) In 1282, "Thomas de la Haulle, Knt." witnessed a writing dated at Caresbrook, All Saints' day, 10 Edw. I, whereby Isabella de Fortibus made a grant to Agnes Monceaus. . . . .[3]

Sir Thomas died leaving no male issue to succeed. His only daughter became heiress to the St. Lawrence and other De Aula estates.

The following sketch pedigree has been drawn, showing the association of the De Aula family with the Manors of St. Lawrence, Yaverland, etc., based upon various deeds and charters executed during the period 1156-1282. Many of the documents being undated, no claim is made to strict accuracy :—

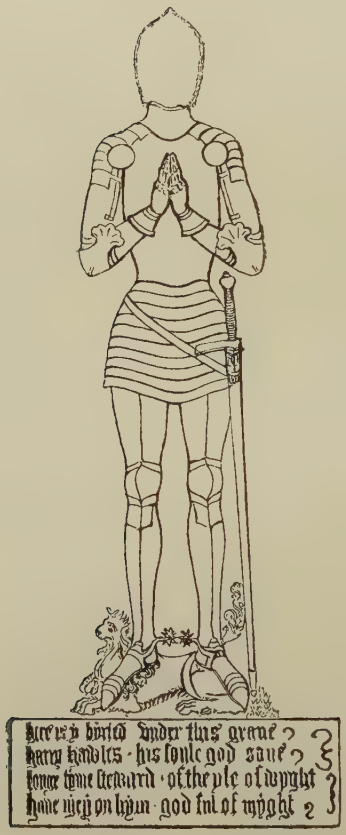


Sir John Oglander, who died 1655, in his memoirs has made several references to the De Aula family—

"They weare Knyghtes of good accoumpt, and lived in S.' Laurance p'rish, or neare they're aboutes." Many of the De Aulas are interred in Godshill Church, the chapel (St. Lawrence) then most likely not being able to exercise the right of burial. "Alsoe in this church (Godshill) lyeth buryed manye of the de Aulas, menn of good ranke and quallitie, manie of them Knyghtes; but of them and manie moore that haue bene buryed, there nowe appeareth noe marke of antiquitie."[4]

The south chantry of Brading Church, says Mr. W. F. Stratton, was probably built by one of the ancient family of De Aula, Lords of Yaverland, Wathe, etc., and has on either side an altar tomb of the

[1] *Placita Corona, co. Suth't.*, p. 210.
[2] *Cal. Ch. R.*, vol. ii, p. 234.
[3] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 1272—1354, p. 53.
[4] Ogl., *Mem.*, p. 89.



Monumental Brass, Arreton Church.

founder and his wife; that on the chancel side with the inscription in old English letters :—" Jhu haue mercie on Wylyam Howlys sowl, amen, mccccxx."; the other, which is under the north wall opposite, " Helizabeth, his wyfe." Another descendant of this ancient family is buried at Arreton, where he is represented by the only monumental brass in the church. This brass (see plate) in the floor of the south chancel, represents a knight in armour, but with the head and shield—which no doubt bore his arms, wanting; it bears the following inscription, and from the characteristics of the armour, as well as the lettering, undoubtedly belongs to the end of the 14th century :

" Here is y byried under this grave[1]
Harry Hawles, his soule God save,
Longe tyme steward of ye yle of Wyght
Have mcy on hym, God full of myght."

" An honourable member of the ancient de Aula family," says Stone, " who probably held office under Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, Lord of the Island, 1386-97."[2]

Macklin enumerates this amongst " the civilian brasses of more or less interest," being placed by him under the Lancastrian period. The date given is *circa* 1340. " The prevalent language of the inscriptions at this time was Latin, though French was occasionally used at the beginning of the century." " But it is the English inscriptions which are, perhaps, the most interesting, for the few that occur are the earliest in our own language." Macklin alludes to the brass at Arreton having an English inscription.[3]

Worsley, in a foot-note in his descriptive account of Yaverland, says : " This family is of great antiquity; the name was often written de Hawles, and some of them are supposed to be still existing under that of Hollis."[4] " And soe ye eldor howse of these Hawles," writes Oglander, " weare extinct, but theyre weare manie younger brothers' children. Insomutch as theyre be many of ye name still left alive in ye Island, butt of no greate fortunes, wherefore they are not nowe in the esteeme of gentlemen."[5] The wills of the " Hawles, of Yaverland," a younger branch of the de Aulas are to be found with the Oglander muniments at Nunwell.

The ancient Cheshire family, " Hall, of Kingsley," near Delamere Forest, claim to have their descent from the island de Aulas. Two cousins still own and reside upon part of the patrimonial estate, at Kingsley, which has been in the family since the Norman Conquest. Ormerod, the Cheshire historian, shows a John de Aula owning land at Kingsley in the reign of Henry III., and a Robertus de Aula was instituted to the vicarage of Waverham in 1307. Ormerod concludes a long record of the family by saying : " The names of various members of this family occur in all ages with a frequency quite unusual, resulting, perhaps, from the active character of a long succession of able men of a family unusually prolific, but certainly not from the extent of their estates." There can

[1] *Isle of Wight Magazine*, 1877–8. [2] *The Archit. Antiqt. of the I. of W.*, vol. i, p. 7.
[3] *The Brasses of England*, p. 162. [4] W., *Hist. I. W.*, p. 201.
[5] Ogl. *Mem.*, p. 89.

be no question as to this Cheshire family being a branch of the de Aulas of St. Lawrence, and so doubly interesting from an antiquarian point of view. In these bustling modern days, it is well sometimes to recall to memory some of these old-time worthies who so loyally and faithfully served their king and country.

THE "RUSSEL FAMILY" OF ST. LAWRENCE, YAVERLAND, &c.

The marriage of the daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas de Aula took place before 1280. In the "Liberties claimed by the countess Isabella de Fortibus and allowed by the Justices itinerant 8 Edward I" is entered the following :—

"Willelmus Russel dominus de Everland qui filiam et heredem Thoma de Hawle duxit in uxorem, tenet vj feoda et ij partes feodi de Comitissa in capite, unde tenet in domenico manerii de Everland et Suthwath Sctî Laurentii."[1]

Translation :—

"William Russel, lord of Aurlond who had in marriage the daughter and heir of Thomas de Aula, holds vi Knights' fees and two parts of a fee of the countess *in capite,* whence he holds in demesne the manors of Aurelond and Suthwathe St. Laur."

The Christian name of the de Aula heiress is not recorded. A reference to the original book at the Record Office, containing the entry printed in the *Testa de Nevill,* shows a blank :—"Will 'us Russell dñs de Aurlond qui . . . . filiam, etc." No attempt was made by the writer to insert the name; it evidently was not before him when he was compiling the original book. Wiffen, Worsley, Burke, with other writers, give Eleanor as the name, but adduce no documentary evidence in support of the statement. On the other hand it might just as well have been Katherine, the name of the lady referred to in the following excerpt :

1311. March 20. "Pardon at the instance of Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester and Hertford to Simon de Harecurt and to Katherine, late the wife of William Russel, tenant in chief, for intermarrying without licence."[2]

Further exhaustive research has been made in the histories of counties where William Russel had holdings, and to various MSS., on the families of Russel and Gorges, but the mystery as to the name of the heiress remains unsolved.

Sir William Russel was the eldest surviving son of Sir Ralph Russel, Knt., of Kingston Russel, co. Dorset and of Dyrham, or Derham, co. Gloucester; the latter estate being held in right of his wife Isabel, eldest daughter and co-heiress of James de Newmarch. Very little is known of Sir William. He was bailiff 1301, and Constable of the Island in 1304.

34 Edward I (1304)—"et hoc sup ven' Will'us Russel constab' Domini Reg. de insula de Wight."[3]

[1] W., *App.*, No. 30.
[2] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 1307—1313, p. 340.
[3] *Abbrev. Plac. Trinity*, 32 Edw. I.

In the Calendar of Close Rolls the following order is entered :—

1304. April 8. "To the keeper of the King's wood at Parkhurst, I. of W. Order to cause William Russel, keeper of the King's manor of Sweyneston in the sd isle, to have as much timber as shall be necessary for the repair of the King's chapel in that manor and of the other houses of the King in that isle. Order to William Russel to cause the said chapel and houses to be repaired. . . . ."[1]

A commission to Thomas de Warblinton and Hugh de Chigenhull to inquire by jury . . . was issued the same day and month :—

"Touching a statement by William Russel, keeper of the manor of Sweyneston, that he caused a vessel called *la Mariote* of Portsmuth to be laden with 450 quarters of corn of divers kinds, from the King's manors in the island, to be taken to Berwick on Tweed, and the vessel was wrecked off the Isle of Wight, whereby a great part was sunk and the rest was cast on shore. He prays to be discharged of the amount sunk, and they are therefore to enquire what quantity of every kind he caused to be put in the vessel, how much was sunk," etc., etc.[2]

Two years later, in the Close Rolls, the following is entered :—

1306. May 30. "To William Russel, constable of Caresbrok Castle and keeper of the King's manor of Thornleye. Order to permit William, prior of Christ Church, Twynham, to have a tithe of the King's rabbits taken within the limits of the parish of Thornleye . . . ."[3]

A licence empowering "William Russel to demise for life to Nicholas de Mortesthorne and Nichola his wife the manor of Kyngestone Russel, co. Dorset."[4] The relationship does not appear, but was presumably near, since at the Inquisition held 3 Edward III, August 25th, on Nichola, the jurors say :—

"That she held the manor . . . . by the enfeoffment of Sir William Russel who held it of the King in chief by serjeanty, *viz.*, by telling out the chessmen of the King's chessboard in the King's chamber and putting them away when the King shall have finished his game."[5]

Sir William Russel is said to have married Jane, the daughter of Robert Peverel, co. Wilts, but except for statements made by Tudor Heralds, or in Collinson's *History of Somerset,* no confirmatory evidence of such marriage is adduced. He died 4 Edward II (1310), the writ to the escheator is in the usual terms :—

"Quia Will's Russel qui de Rex tenuit in capite, diem clausit extremum ut Rex accepit. Mandatum est Walto de Gloũc. . . . ."[6]

Translation :—

Whereas William Russell who held of the King in chief, has closed his last days, as the King, etc. We command you Walter de Gloucester, escheator. . . . .

The inquisition bears the same date :—

"William Russel, *alias* Rossel—
(*inter alia*) Southampton [Isle of Wight].
Yoverlond. The manor extended at 15*li.* 6½*d.* yearly.
Wathe. The manor extended at 12*li.* 9*s.* ¾*d.* yearly."[7]

[1] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1302—1307, p. 131.
[2] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 1301—1307, p. 276.
[3] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1302—1307, p. 388.
[4] *Ibid.*, ,, ,, p. 481.
[5] *Cal. Inq. p. m.*, vol. vii, No. 220.
[6] *Excerpta e Rotulis Fin.*, 4 Edw. II, Memb. 14.
[7] *Cal. Inq. p. m.*, vol. v, No. 278 (1906).

He was also seised of other lands in Wilts, Bucks, Gloucester, Somerset and Dorset. At the close of the entry relating to Wiltshire, the jurors say: "Theobald, his son, aged 12 years, is his next heir."[1]

Soon after Sir William's demise his widow married Sir Simon de Harcourt. This is set forth in the following excerpt from a Close Roll:

1311. July 6. "To Roger de Wellesworth, escheator beyond Trent. Order to deliver to Simon de Harcourt and Katherine his wife, late the wife of William Russel, tenant in chief, the following of the lands of the said William, which the King has assigned to her as dower . . . . (*inter alia*) a third part of the manor of Yovorlond, a third part of the manor of Wathe, both in the county of Southampton . . . . provided that the said Simon and Katherine shall pay 7*s*. 8½*d*. yearly, the value in excess of her dower, to the Keeper of the lands of the said William, and to his heir, when the heir comes of age."[2]

Sir William left two sons, minors, at his death. "The custody of the lands and tenements during the minority of the heirs was granted, Dec. 26th, 1310, to Otelin Ferre, King's yeoman,"[3] a near relation to Guy Ferre, the second husband of Eleanor, wife of Ralph (3) de Gorges, of Knighton.

The date of lady Katherine's death has not been traced. It may possibly have taken place before 1314, in which year Sir Simon de Harcourt presents to the St. Lawrence benefice.

A.D. 1311-1340—Sir Theobald Russel, Knt., was born *c.* 1298, and was 12 years of age when his father died. In a return made, 13 Edward II. (1320), for the manor of Horsington, co. Wilts—

"Theobald Russel being found under age, the manor was granted to Alice Legrave, the King's nurse, for her support during the minority of the said Theobald."[4]

Several notices referring to him are to be found in the records:—

1324. March 12. "Order to the escheator of the counties of Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Dorset—to cause Theobald son and heir of William Russel to have seisin of his father's lands, as he has proved his age . . . . and the King has taken his homage."[5]

A further reference occurs in the Patent Rolls—

Jan. 1333. "Commission of Oyer and Terminer issued on complaint of John de Langforde, that Theobald Russel, John de Kyngeston, John, son of John de Glamorgan, and others, broke his doors and windows in his manor of Chale."[6]

A few months later a similar complaint is made "that Theobald Russel, Knt., John de Kyngeston, Robert Urry, Robert his son, Lawrence Russel, John his brother (and many others), broke his close at Chale, burned his houses there," etc.[7]

Three years afterwards is entered:—

1336. Sep. 22. "Licence for Theobald Russel to grant to Ralph, son of Theobald Russel, the elder, and Alice his wife, the manor of Derham, co. Gloucester."[8]

[1] *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, vol. v, p. 152 (1906).
[2] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1307—1313, p. 321.
[3] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 1307—1313, p. 326.
[4] Collinson, *Hist. of Somerset*, vol. ii, p. 372.
[5] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1323—1327, p. 72.
[6] *Cal. Pat. R.*, Edw. III, 1330—1334, p. 439.
[7] *Ibid.*, p. 450.
[8] *Ibid.*, 1334—1338, p. 316.

A few months later an order is entered :—

April 15, 1337. "directing him, in conjunction with Roger de Langeford, warden of Caresbrooke Castle, and Bartholomew de Insula, to compel all persons in the Isle of Wyght to furnish men for the defence of the island. The King orders the sheriff to assist them." [1]

July 10. 1337. "Theobald Russel is appointed captain of the men of the Isle of Wight. The King orders the wardens of the coast, and the arrayers of the Isle of Wight and the sheriff of Southampton, to assist him." [2]

Two years elapse and there is entered—

Feb. 12. 1339. "Theobald Russel (with others) appointed to the custody of the Isle of Wight and ordered to make continual stay there to defend it against attacks of foreign enemies who are trying to effect a landing there." [3]

A week later, in a Close Roll, is the following order :—

Feb. 20. 1339. "To the treasurer and barons of the exchequer. Order to cause Theobald Russel to have respite until Whitsuntide next for £123. 13*s*. 4*d*. exacted of him of a debt of £900 in which William Russel, his father, was bound to the King for the time when he was constable of Caresbrok Castle as the King has granted him this respite for his expenses in the safe custody of the Isle of Wight against the attacks of alien enemies." [4]

In the month of November :—

Nov. 20. 1339. "Order to pay £51. 3*s*. 3*d*. to Theobald Russel for his own wages and those of 17 men at arms, 2 hobelers, and 12 archers from 1 Sept. last till Martinmas at 12*s*. 6*d*. and 3*d*. a day each respectively." [5]

Sir Theobald died in the hour of victory, being killed when victoriously leading the Island forces against the French invaders, 1339-40. His widow survived him, and the following assignment appears :—

Sept. 18. 1340. "Order to assign, and deliver to Eleanor, late the wife of Theobald Russel, tenant in chief, in the presence of Ralph Russel, Theobald's son and heir, if he choose to attend . . . . ⅓ part of the manors of Horsyngton, etc., etc." [6] (Particulars of the holdings, etc., are set out on page 643 of the Calendar.)

In the same series of Rolls is issued :—

Jan. 26. 1341. "To the escheator. Order to take into the King's hands all the lands of which Theobald Russel was seised, etc., etc., the King being lately informed that Theobald who held in chief, died on 11 August last. . . . ." [7]

Sir Theobald was twice married. He first married Eleanor (Alianora), a daughter and co-heir of Ralph de Gorges, of Knyghton, I. of W., by whom he had issue three sons, Ralph, the eldest, who succeeded to the paternal estates; William, the second son, had the Gorges property settled on him in tail male, and dying without male issue in 1343, the Knighton estate passed to the third son Theobald, who assumed the name of de Gorges.

Sir Theobald's second wife, also named Eleanor, was a daughter of John de la Tour, who survived him many years, and presented to the

[1] Rymer's *Foedera*, Hardy, p. 292.
[2] *Ibid.*
[3] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1339—1341, p. 133.
[4] *Ibid.*, p. 91.
[5] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1339—1341, p. 295.
[6] *Ibid.*, p. 527.
[7] *Ibid.*, 1341—1343, p. 6.

living of St. Lawrence, in 1344, 1349, and 1356, probably dying in that year (Inq. p. m. No. 36, 30 Edward III); seised of lands in Gloucester, Somerset, and elsewhere.

With reference to the manor of Knyghteton there is an order :—

1343. May 21. "To the escheator to deliver to Theobald Russel, the manor . . . . as the King has learned . . . . that William, son of Theobald Russel, held that manor at his death, for himself and the heirs male of his body by a fine levied in the King's court, with remainder in default of such issue, to Theobald, his brother . . . . and that William died without an heir male . . . . and the King has taken Theobald's homage."[1]

A.D. 1340-1375. SIR RALPH RUSSEL, KNT., son and heir, was next in possession, of whom little is recorded. His wife's name was Alice (the surname has not been traced), by whom he had issue, a son, Maurice, and a daughter, Alice. Sir Ralph died, 49 Edward III (1375). The inquisition p.m. furnishes the following—

"No. 32. Radulphus Russel, ch'r.
Everlond maner', Roberow maner', Wathe maner', in Insula Vecta.
Athelyngton maner', Kyngeston maner', co. Dorset.
Horsyngton maner', co. Somerset."[2]

His wife survived, dying 2 Richard II (1387).

"No. 46—Alicia uxor Rad'i Russel, mîlitis.
Upton maner' 4ta pars, Berks. Everland maner', Roughbergh maner', Wade maner', 3tia pars—Sutht. Horsington maner' 2 pars et advoc. ecclie, Somerset. Athelington maner' 2 partes et advoc' capelle, Dorset."[3]

A.D. 1376–1421. SIR MAURICE RUSSEL, KNT., third son and eventual heir (see p. 208), was a minor when his father died. The wardship was granted by the King to Sir Robert de Assheton on his paying the sum of £43. 11*s*. 0½*d*. to the King yearly.

"49 Edward III—Rex commisit Roberto de Assheton, militis, custodiam duarum principium maner' . . . . que fuerint Radulphi Russel, militis, defuncti, etc. Habendum usque ad legitimam ætatem heredis, reddendo inde Rege per annum quadraginta et tres libras undecim solidos et unum denarium."[4]

Sir Maurice was of full age by or before March 25th, 1379, since on this date he presented to the St. Lawrence living. He was twice married. His first wife's name was Isabel. Who she was is not known. The incorrect pedigree entered in the Gloucestershire visitation of 1620 says " . . . daughter to Bruyne " (possibly a Brun, or Bruyn, of Fordingbridge, co. Hants). " She was probably of high rank since her daughter is described as 'consanguinea Domini Regis Henrici Quarti.' By this marriage Sir Maurice had two daughters, Isabella and Margaret.

Isabella, the eldest daughter, married—probably by 1395, William Scrope, K.G., created Earl of Wiltshire, September 29th, 1397. He was attainted and executed in July, 1399. Lady Scrope soon afterwards—

[1] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1343—1346, p. 66.
[2] *Cal. Inq. p. m.*, vol. ii, p. 348 (Rec. Com.).
[3] *Ibid.*, vol. iii, p. 96 (Rec. Com.).
[4] *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.*, vol. ii, p. 335 (Rec. Com.).

7 Henry IV— married Sir Thomas de la Ryvere, having issue a son, Maurice, aged 30, in 1437. Her third alliance was with Sir John Drayton, and on his death, in 1417, she married Stephen de Haytefield, armiger.

Margaret, the younger sister, married Gilbert Denys (he having previously had to wife Joan Kemys), and had issue a son Maurice, who later inherited Derham, co. Gloucester. She married secondly, John Kemys. Sir Maurice married secondly, Joan, daughter of Sir John Stradling, to whom a son and heir was born. Three years before his death, which took place in 1421, Sir Maurice conveyed the manors of Yaverland, Rowboro', and St. Lawrence, with the advowsons of the two livings, to trustees, in the interest of his daughters Isabella and Margaret.

A.D. 1421-1438.—THOMAS RUSSEL, son and heir, by the second marriage succeeded. He married (the lady's name is not traceable), and had issue an only daughter, Margery, who predeceased her father, dying v.p. and s.p. in 1432. Consequent upon her death, the aunts, Lady Scrope and Margaret Russel, became co-heirs of their father's estates. The trustees of the 1418 settlement entered into a new arrangement in virtue of which the two sisters were declared seised of the three manors and the two advowsons, Joan, Sir Maurice's widow, having married again, was allowed a third part as her share.

Thomas Russel died in 1438. The inquisition following his demise furnished the following return :—

"16 Henry VI—" *Thomas Russel.*"

"Yaverlond maner' et advoc' ecclesia, Rougburgh maner', Wathe maner' et advoc' eccl'iæ in Insula Vecta."[1]

Consequent on his death, the half-sisters became actual co-heirs in blood to their father, Sir Maurice. Fresh trustees of their interests were appointed, a John Cottismore being one.[2] The widow Joan's portion was to revert to the trustees at her death, for the use of Isabella and her husband, Stephen Hatfield. The sister, Margaret Kemes, resigned her share in favour of Isabella, a rose being rendered every year as an acknowledgment. Lady Isabella died soon after these arrangements were completed. The jurors, at the inquisition taken 17 Henry V., made the following return :—

"*Isabella que fuit uxor Stephani Heytefeld, armigeri, defunct.*"
Nywenham maner' extent. Oxon.
Yaverlond maner', extent cum eccl'iæ, Rouburgh maner', Sutht'.
Wathe maner', cum eccliæ—Suth't.
. . . . in Dorset."[3]

After lady Isabella's death her husband held her share. This is shown by the following excerpt taken from a Parliamentary Roll, 17 Henry VI :—

"et modo tenet Stephanus Hatfield qui alianorum filiam et heredem Mauritii Russel militis duxit in uxorem unde tenet in domenico maneria de Everland et Suth Wath."[4]

[1] *Cal. Inq. p. m.*, vol. iv, p. 184 (Rec. Com.).
[2] Odell, *Proc. H.F.C.*, vol. iv, p. 66.
[3] *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, vol. iv, p. 177 (Rec. Com.).
[4] W., *App.*, No. 33.

Translation :—

"and Stephen Hatfield holds the same, who had in marriage one of the daughters and heirs of Maurice Russel, miles, whence he holds in demesne the manors of Everland' and South-Wathe."

Sir Stephen died in 1461, and by the jurors' return is shown seised of the manors :—

"1 Edward IV—"*Steph'us Hatfield, armiger.*"

Yaverlond maner' et advoc' eccl'iæ. Roubergh maner', Wathe maner' et advoc' eccl'iæ in Insula Vecta. Suth't."[1]

These estates now passed to the Hacket family.

Sir Maurice's widow had died four years previously.

"35 Henry VI (1457)—*Johanna quæ fuit uxor Mauricii Russel, militis,* defunct."[2] (The estates are given in detail in the inquisition.)

Thomas Russel left his estates to John Hacket, son of John Hacket, by his marriage with Alice, sister of Sir Maurice Russel. On the death of Margery, Thomas Russel's daughter, in 1432, he had been found heir under the old rule which prevented ascendants being found heirs to descendants. In the Roll, 17 Henry VI—from which an excerpt has already been given, John Hackett is shown seised of the Knighton estates formerly held by lady Elena de Gorges.

"et modo tenet Joh'es Hacket unde tenet in domenico manerii de Knighton."[3]

Sir Richard Worsley makes reference to the Hacket family, in a footnote appended to a "List of the Men at Arms furnished to Edward I, for the Defence of the Isle of Wight." He writes :—

"Johan Hacket leutenant le conte Arundel pour le garde de Portsmouth et constable de Porcestre, etc."[4]

adding :—

"This John Hacket was probably the father of Thomas Hacket, who is seen in the subsequent roll of landholders in the Isle, and, ancestor to that John Hacket who was found one of the heirs of Russel, who died 10 Henry VI."

Thomas Hacket, referred to by Worsley, married Nichola, one of the six sisters, co-heirs to the estates of Nicholas de Glamorgan, of Mottiston, who died *non compos mentis, circa* 1363. Hacket, by his marriage, acquired a moiety of the Glamorgan estates, and subsequently obtained by purchase from the sisters the other moieties in Wolverton, La Wode, Middleton, and la Clyve, with the advowsons, etc. In the Feudal Aid of 1428 is entered :—

"Johannes Haket tenet di' f. in Wolverton, et alibi, quod Robertus Glamorgan quondam tenuit."

and in the Aid of 1431 :—

"Johannes Roucle et Johannes Haket seisiti fuerunt de tribus partibus i f. m.' in Wolveton, Hardle, Langrede et Scotefford."

In 1439 John Hacket is returned seised of these manors :—

"et modo tenet Joh'es Haket maneria de Wolverton, Hardley, Langred, et Scottesford."

[1] *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, vol. iv, p. 308 (Rec. Com.).
[2] *Ibid.*, p. 276 (Rec. Com.).
[3] W., *App.*, No. 33.
[4] *Ibid.*, No. 10.

By deed 46 Edward III these estates were settled in his family.[1] The issue of the marriage of Alice, sister of Sir Maurice Russel, with John Hacket, was a son, also named John. He left issue two daughters, Agnes, who married —. Fry, of Appuldurcombe, and after his decease she married Sir John Leigh. Her sister Joan married John Gilbert, of Witcombe, co. Salop. By these alliances the Hacket estates were conveyed into other families.

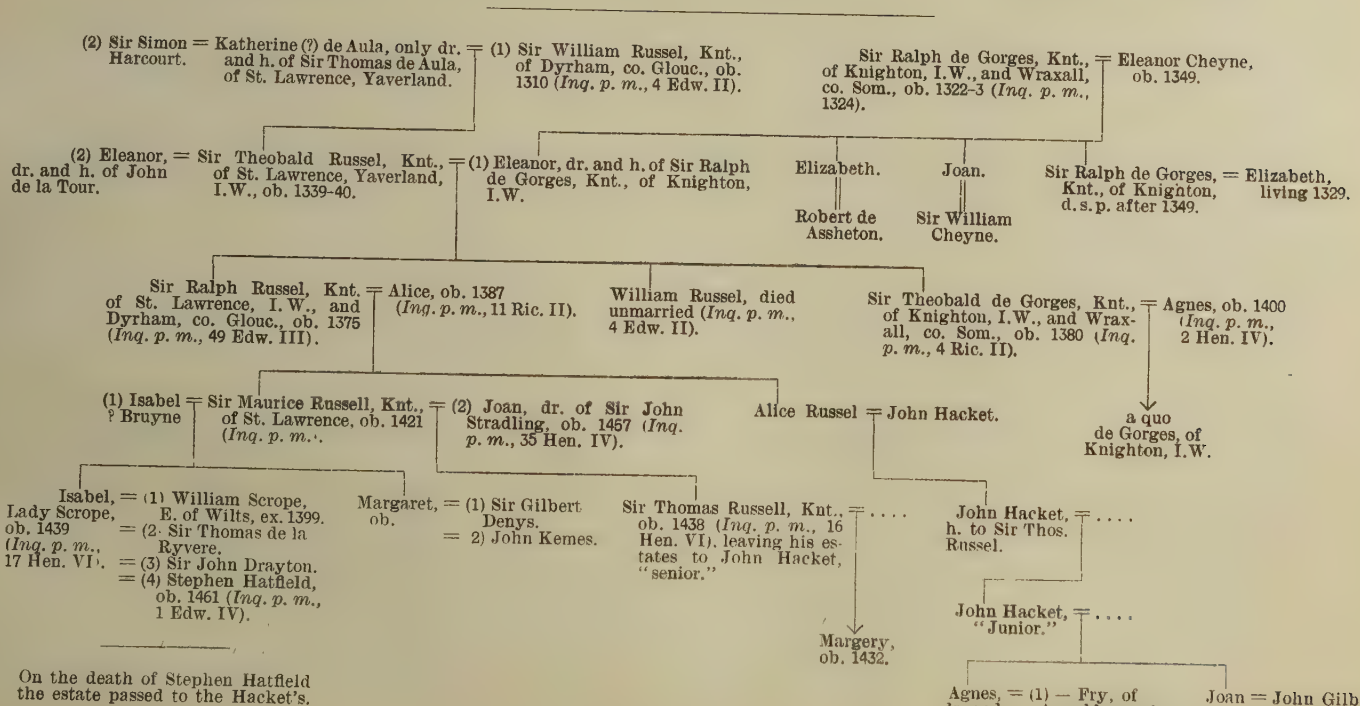
For the further continuation of the manorial history of the parish my indebtedness is more especially due to Mr. Odell, late Rector of St. Lawrence, from whose paper on "The Old Church, St. Lawrence," the following information had been culled.[2] It appears from a Close Roll, 3 Henry VII. No. 18 (1488), that a family named Cottesmore purchased the properties from the Hackets, or their trustees, for the sum of three hundred pounds. After the transfer took place, four generations of the Cottesmore family had possession of the estates. A Chancery Inquisition, 23 Henry VII (1508),[3] declares that John Cottesmore died, in 1482, possessed of these manors with the two advowsons. His son, Sir John, died in 1509[4]; William, his son and heir, in 1519,[5] leaving his son, John Cottesmore, then aged 22 years, heir to the estates. He married Florence, daughter of Sir Symon Harcourt, and had issue a son, *ob. s. p.*, and a daughter Anne, who married Thomas Unton, of Letcombe Regis, Esquire, the second son of Sir Thomas Unton, of Minster Lovell, Oxon. Thomas Unton died without issue in 1542, leaving the estates, after the death of his widow, to his maternal relations, the Hydes. The estates became lawfully vested in Sir Edward Unton, a nephew by marriage, who presented to the St. Lawrence living in 1557. He conveyed, in 1562, one-third part of the manor of Wathe to Germyn Richards, who assigned it, later, to Dame Anne Worsley, widow of Sir James Worsley, of Appuldurcombe. The other moiety had been inherited by Thomas Hyde,[6] who conveyed it also to Dame Worsley, so that in 1562 she is found lawfully possessed of the manor.

In connection with the purchase of the manor are the following particulars:—In a Feet of Fines, Anna Worseley, widow, purchasing one-third part of two parts in the manors of Wathe and Nettlecombe, and of other lands in Goddishill, Wathe, Nettlecombe, St. Lawrence, and Whytewell, and one-third part of two parts of the advowson of the free chapel of St. Lawrence, from Richard Conyngesbye, gentlemen, and Elizabeth, his wife, for the sum of £80 sterling.[7]

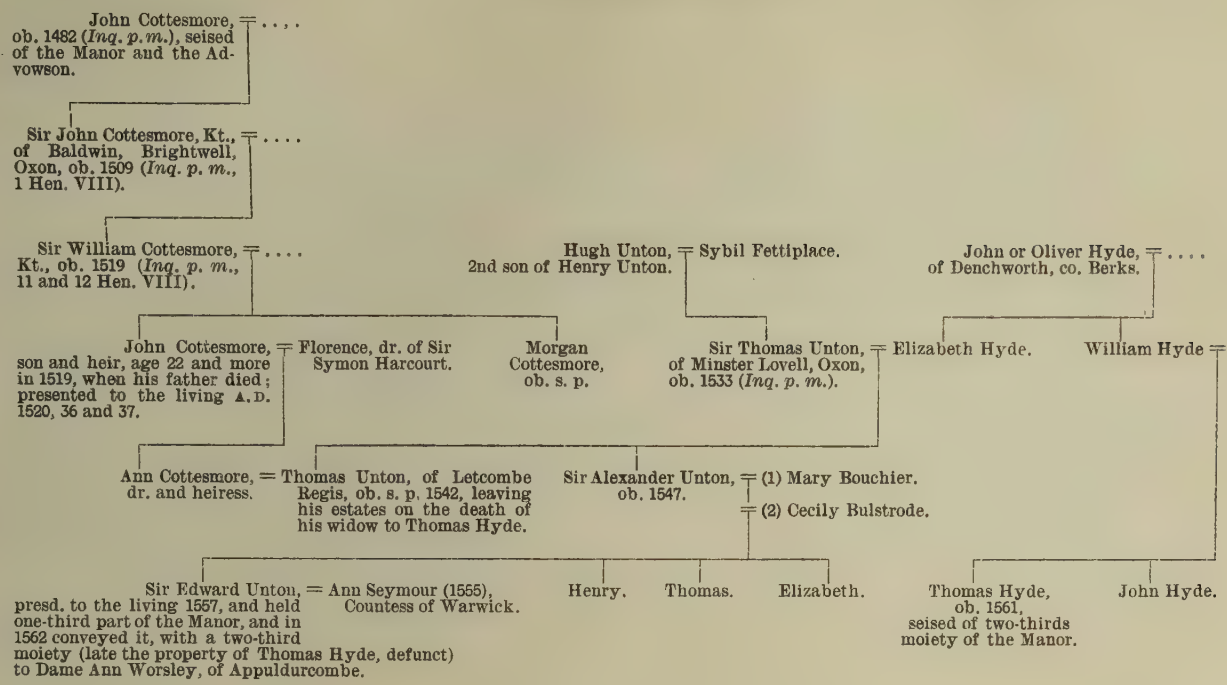
Ten years later, 1571-2, John Worsley, esquire, purchases of Henry Cottesmore, gentleman, the manors of Wathe and Nettlecombe and other lands in Goddeshill, Wathe, Nettlecombe, St. Lawrence, and Whitwell, and also the advowson of the free chapel of St. Lawrence, for the sum of £360 sterling.[8]

1 W., *Hist.*, p. 194.
2 Odell, *Proc. H.F.C.*, vol. iv, p. 61.
3 *Inq. p. m.*, 23 Hen. VII, 2nd Ser., vol. xxii, No. 7.
4 *Ibid.*, 1 Hen. VIII, 2nd Ser., vol. xxiv, No. 21.
5 *Ibid.*, 11-12 Hen. VIII, 2nd Ser., file 15.
6 *Ibid.*, 35-6 Hen. VIII, vol. i, p. 18.
7 *Pedes F.*, 4 Eliz., 1562, Suth't.
8 *Ibid.*, 13-14 Eliz., 1571-2, Suth't.

A SCHEME SHOWING
THE CONNECTION OF THE "RUSSEL" FAMILY WITH ST. LAWRENCE MANOR.



A SCHEME SHOWING THE RELATION OF THE FAMILIES OF THE "COTTESMORES," "UNTONS," AND "HYDES," WITH THE ST. LAWRENCE MANOR, I. OF W.



In 1579, John Worsley purchases of John Taylere and Anne, his wife, the moiety of the manors of Gatcombe and Whytewell, with other lands, etc., in Wathe (among other villages) for £800 sterling.[1]

It thus appears that the Worsley family did not acquire the St. Lawrence estate by inheritance or by marriage, as set forth by Sir Richard Worsley :—" From Hacket it came to Sir John Leigh, and with his daughter and heiress went, in the reign of Henry the Eighth, to Sir James Worsley."[2] Dame Anne Worsley died in 1564; Richard, son and heir, in 1565. His sons, whilst still minors, were accidentally killed in 1567, and the estates passed to their uncle, John Worsley, of Swainston. The manor and advowson continued vested in the Worsley family until 1805. On the death of Sir Richard Worsley, Bart., the estate devolved to his sister, Henrietta Francis, the wife of the Hon. John Bridgman Simpson, second son of Lord Bradford. Their only daughter and heiress married Charles Anderson Pelham, created Lord Yarborough in 1837. At his death in 1846 he was succeeded by his eldest son and heir as second earl, the manor and advowson of St. Lawrence passing to his second son, the Hon. Evelyn C. Pelham.

A singular point in the history of the manor may be noted—the estate had passed into four different families by failure of male issue.

THE OLD CHURCH.

The old church is dedicated to St. Lawrence, but any explanation of the why and wherefore must be purely legendary. Mr. Odell, late rector of the parish says :—" How and when the name was given is uncertain. St. Laurentius was canonized and admitted into the Calendar as early as the 4th Century. He is said to have been born at Osca, in the kingdom of Arragon, and was living at Rome in the days of the Emperor Valerian, A.D. 258. He was the first of the seven deacons under Sixtus II., whose martyrdom, as his deacon, he attended. Four days later he himself received the martyr's crown, being placed on a gridiron, and suffering death by burning over a slow fire." Hence the gridiron is the symbol of St. Lawrence. He is also the patron saint of curriers, because his skin was broiled on a gridiron.

It is said that there are few old towns in Christendom which have not a church, or an altar, dedicated to this saint. In England there are no less than 250 dedications—all ancient—to the same saint. Bishop Stubbs thought the reason for so large a number was in order " to show respect to the second Archbishop of Canterbury conjointly with him." It is remarkable that at most of the southern points from Canterbury, all the way to St. Lawrence in the Isle of Wight there is to be found a Church dedicated to him. There is one not far from Beachy Head and another near Brighton. If a map of the province of Canterbury were drawn, some two hundred and fifty churches dedicated to this saint could be dotted upon it, as stated above.

It has been suggested that the dedication may have had some relation to Laurentius, second Archbishop of Canterbury. Kent was early colon-

[1] *Pedes F.*, 21 Eliz., 1579, Suth't.

[2] W., *Hist.*, p. 208.

ST. LAURANCE CHURCH, Isle of Wight. From a Drawing by C. Tomkins, 1795.

ised by a Jutish settlement, and an offshoot of this race established themselves in the Isle of Wight.

Since St. Radegund was the patron saint of the De Estur family in the adjoining parish, so St. Lawrence may have held the same position here with the De Aulas.

The edifice is seated on the very brow of a great mass of fallen rock, and was enclosed till recently in one of the quietest and fairest of graveyards. In this exposed situation, after the lapse of at least seven centuries, the church still stands, a venerable monument of the stability of the soil, and a proof that no change of any consequence has happened during that period.

In the absence of evidence to the contrary, we may assume the little chapel to have been built by one of the earlier members of the de Aula family and endowed with the usual tithe and glebe, and having in addition the great tithes of the De Aulas' lands at Spann.

Mr. Odell[1] has shown that the church must have been built, some years at least, before 1201, since an Assize Roll at the Record Office gives the name of a chaplain of St. Lawrence-under-Wath residing here "since the year 1201," which indicates that the church must have been in existence some years prior to that date.

The little church, in old writings, is always called "St. Lawrence-under-Wathe," *i.e.*, St. Lawrence-under-cliffe.

Until the early part of the last century—prior to the extension by the first Earl of Yarborough—it was ecclesiastically noted as being the smallest parish church in England. Its dimensions were as follows:—Length, 20ft.; breadth, 12ft.; and height to the eaves scarcely 6ft., an area not so extensive as that comprised within the circumference of the renowned table of king Arthur at Winchester. It is thought that beyond slight alterations no structural changes have taken place from the founding of the church until those made at the beginning of the last century.

In the Episcopal and other Archives there are several notices referring to the edifice.

A.D. 1284, in Bishop Pontissara's register, mention is made of "*Cap'lla Sci Laurencii.*"

A.D. 1291, in the "*Tax. Eccles.* Pope Nicholas IV," a similar entry occurs and the living is assessed at £4. 6*s*. 8*d*.

A.D. 1305-6, in the returns made by the Dean of the Island and given in Bishop Woodlock's register, "*Capella Scti Lawrence de Wathe*" is mentioned, and a reference made to the rector receiving the great tithes of the ancient demesne of "la Hawle" at Spanne.

A.D. 1323-33, in the later register of Bishop Stratford, it is called "*Capella de Wathe.*"

A.D. 1372, in Bishop Wykeham's register, "*Capella S. Lawrenci de Wathe*" is referred to.[2]

[1] *Proc. H. F. C.*, vol. iv, p. 61.

[2] *Publ. H. Rec. Soc.*, vol. ii, p. 582.

Two years later a "Petition to the King to exonerate certain benefices impoverished by the plague" is presented, and in the list of sums to be discharged "*the chapel of St. Lawrence de Wathe*" appears.[1] Owing doubtless to the impoverishment resulting from the epidemic, a subsequent entry is made of a writ "*fieri facias*" for arrears of triennial tenths, amounting to four shillings and fourpence, and the following comment appears:—"Tested at Westminster," and, as regards the rector of St. Lawrence Chapel, "*nulla bona*" is entered.

Lastly, in Wykeham's Register, a writ "*fieri facias*" is entered "for arrears of triennial tenths, portion of Abbot of Lire in chapel of St. Laurence de Wathe, £4." Of this item no explanation is given. There is no reference showing that the foreign abbey had any association in the way of tithe with the little parish.[2]

A.D. 1410.—In Cardinal Beaufort's "*Valor Beneficiorum*," the "*Capella Scti Laurentii,*" is valued at six marks.

The chapel supplied one bowman, 8 Edward I, for island defence, due for the glebe land.

In the year 1339-40, the Commons made a grant for royal needs of the ninth of the main income of the year, and it was provided that men of character in each parish should make formal affidavit on the subject. The value of the benefice at this time is shown in the return.

"Capella Sancti Laurentii."

"Nomina homini ejusdem capellae Johannes le Mount, Galfridus le Smyth, jurati retornati coram nobis per vicarium qui informacionem seu inquisicionem supra taxa ecclesiæ predictae parochiae facere adhuc recusarunt tamen onerati sunt de taxa ejusdem ecclesiæ unde nona nuper informacionem coram episcopo Wyntoniensis captam assessa fuit ad xxx solidos."[3]

Translation:—

Chapel of Saint Lawrence.

"The names of the men of the said chapel. John le Mount and Geoffrey le Smyth sworn to and returned by the vicar as fit persons to give an account before us, of the ninths of the said chapel (or parish), refused to furnish information or make enquiry touching the assessment of the aforesaid rectory. The assessment of thirty shillings was made according to the enquiry recently held before the Bishop of Winchester."

Valor Ecclesiasticus, *temp.* Henry VIII, 1534:—[4]

Rectoria S'ci Laurentii.

Michael Raby Modo Rector.

	£	s	d
Valet in firma terr' vocat' glebe lande una cum decimis et oblationibus ut prius per dcm̃ quaternii Repris'.	iij	ix	x
In procurationibus et quadam pensione up prius per dict quat'			xix ob'
Et valet ultra - - - -	iij	viij	ij ob'
xa inde - - - - -		vi	x

[1] *Wyk. Reg.*, vol. ii, p. 30 (H. Rec. Soc.).
[2] *Ibid.*, vol. ii, p. 582 (H. Rec. Soc.).
[3] *N. Inq. in Curia Scac.* (Rec. Com. Publ., 1807).
[4] vol. ii, p. 25.

Rectory of Saint Lawrence.

Michael Raby now Rector.

	£	s	d
Is worth in form of lands called glebe lands, with tithes and oblations, etc. - - - -	3	9	10
Reprises in procurations, pension, etc. - - - - - -			19½
And is worth beyond - -	3	8	2½
The tenth thereof - - -		6	10

The following excerpt is taken from "An Inquirie made and returned by the jury appointed and sworn by Virtue of a Commission from his Highness, the Lord Protector, A.D. 1653-58, concerning the uniteing of Parishes within the Isle of Wight according to their best Inquirie":—

"St. Lawrence Parsonage worth about Forty Pounds, by the yeare. Mr. Matthew Home the pr'snt Incumbt'. Sir Henry Worseley, Patron. Leying aboute two Miles Distant from Whitwell, theire beinge Severall Familys called Steeple of the Parish of Godshill—the Tithes valued at Twenty six Shillings by the yeare leying fitt to be united to St. Lawrence."

Worsley gives an inventory of the Plate in the several churches, taken by the King's Commissioners, 1 Edward VI. (1547).[1]

THE "EST MEDEN."

Sainte Lawraunce.

Richard Newman bown'd and appointed for	Item. Solde in ann° xxxviij H. viij one challes of sylver weinge viij oz. for	xxxiij*s.* x*d.*

A later list is given of "Church Goods" sold by the "Comyssyoners the first Day of Awgust in the Sixth yere of the Regne of our said Souraine Lorde Edwarde the Sixthe."

THE "EST MEDEN."

Saint Lawrans Churche.

P'cells remayning in the custody and charg of John Ednat church man at this p'sent	First, one Challes of silver p'cill gilt weinge 12 oz. di. Itm. one olde vestmt of Tawney satten of brigs wt the Albe to it. Itm. one olde vestmt of threde Dornexe wt the Albe to the same. Itm. one surplis to Awter, clothes one Towell to Corpores Cases. Itm. To small belles hanginge in the ende of the churche. Itm. in There church stocke ewe shepe xiij.
P'celles solde by the p'ishe and church men.	Itm. one challes solde by the hands of Richard Blow, church warden in an° xxxviij° H. viij° the p'te ys dede and the valewe therof is not knowen.[1]

The church, apart from its antiquity, possesses no architectural feature of any interest; though the walls are probably of Norman date there is nothing to indicate the period of their erection.

The oldest representation of the church is the wood-cut appearing in Worsley's History, published in 1781, which represents the church with a stone belfry and south door, but without a porch, as it appeared before that date. Another well executed print, given in Tomkin's "*Tour to*

[1] W., *App.*, No. 38, part ii.

the Isle of Wight," published in 1795, shows a spire, apparently of wood, and made to cover the stone belfry. In the list of Church goods, etc., mention is made of "two small belles hanginge in the ende of the churche" which the double belfry might have accommodated. After 1805 the porch appears, added by the Hon. Charles Anderson Pelham, whilst the enlargement eastward (which has robbed it of its claim of being the smallest parish church in England) was carried out by the late Lord Yarborough in 1842. The spire was removed and a stone belfry added, as shown in Brannon's view, 1829, and as it is now. At one period the church had a door on the north side; this is now blocked up owing to the accumulation of earth at the back. Before the reformation it was the custom in the old English burial service, on the occasion of a funeral, to carry the body into the chancel of the church by the north door, and to pass out again through the south door, and this procedure gave rise to the idea of passing through the church on the road to heaven. The little low window existing in the north wall has given rise to various theories. One suggestion held that it was possibly a leper window, but this idea has been much disputed. According to the Rev. Father Davies, it was the custom in early days to preserve a lamp burning on the altar, and the window in question was put there for the express purpose of watching the light from the outside. It was a common thing to leave money or lands, sometimes called "the lampe londe," for a light to burn before the high altar. "In the year 1228 Gilbert Pepe gave nine acres of land in 'the Schete' (now known as Shide, near Newport) in perpetual alms for a lamp to be forever burning before the altar of St. Mary, at Carisbrooke." These windows always looked upon the altar and were never to be found after a certain date. Another suggestion was that the window was made for the benefit of wayside worshippers, who were able, when the church was closed, to perform their devotions from the outside.

Local tradition lingers round the spot, affirming that a former rector, being late for service one Sunday morning, and rushing hurriedly to church, on entering by the low north door—now blocked up—met his death by striking his head against the lintel, and is buried in one of the two stone altar tombs on which the wall of the extended chancel rests. A monk, tradition affirms, reposes in the other.

The clergyman in question is said to have been the Rev. Corbet Shelbery, a very absent-minded personality prone to indulge in the pleasures of crab fishing. He was busily engrossed making crab pots at his Chale rectory, when a friendly passer by reminded him it was the Sabbath day. Being late he hurried away to St. Lawrence to take the service when the fatal accident happened.

In the interior of the church an ancient piscina of the thirteenth century may be noted, also a detached holy water stoup, of fifteenth century date. This was found under the old pulpit when it was removed, and was left outside in the churchyard, but is now preserved in the church. The old baptismal font was removed to the new church erected in 1876, and re-cut under the direction of the architect, Sir

ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH. From Barber's "Isle of Wight," 1845.

Gilbert Scott. The Holy Table has been pronounced by an expert to be of the time of Charles I. In the little eastern window was a transparency, representing the resurrection of Christ, being the gift of a late amiable resident at the Cottage, Mrs. Carter, "Whose name and virtues," says Sir Henry Englefield, "will be long and tenderly remembered by those who were so happy as to enjoy her friendship." A painting of the Royal Arms is affixed to the west wall, and is one of the few cases in which the arms of Charles I remain in our churches. During the Commonwealth they were whitewashed. The first three figures—163—can be traced, and the last figure seems to be a 6.

Sir John Oglander remarks:—"This is a verye smale church, under ye cliffes, at ye sowth-easte parte of owre Island, commonly called Under Wathe. In which ar no monumentes, neythor of late any man of quallitie there buryed."[1] In the chancel is a memorial slab to the Hon. Dudley Pelham, and several are to be found in the nave, including one erected in memory of the Rev. Charles Levingstone. Before the alterations in the church were carried out the seating consisted of three oaken seats; these were removed and pews substituted. The church interior is left much as it was when in use for service, though some of the pews have been cleared away to make room for the hand bier used at funerals. The church is now utilised as a mortuary chapel. "Old John Green," the parish clerk, has given, with some approach to accuracy, the dimensions of the old church, in the following doggerel lines, entitled:—"On St. Lawrence Church being the smallest in the British Dominions. Sept. 9th, 1835."

"This church has often drawn the curious eye,
To see its length and breadth, to see how high;
At length to measure it, 'twas my intent,
That I might certify its full extent.
Its breadth from side to side, above the bench,
Is just eleven feet and half an inch;
And its height from pavement to the ceiling mortar,
Eleven feet, four inches, and a quarter;
And its length from east to the west end,
I tell the truth to you, you may depend—
Twenty-five feet, four inches, quarters three,
Is just its measurement as you may see.
And situated close to the high road,
Here you may join in prayer and worship God;
And though the building is so low and small,
You may be near to Heaven, as at St. Paul.
It stands firm on some consecrated ground,
Fenc'd with a wall, and ivy growing round;
Its length is sixty feet, breadth forty-two,
And there the dead do meet to wait for you."

With the increase in the village population and the advent of visitors in the summer months, there being no accommodation within the little church, forms were placed in the churchyard, under an awning spread from the eaves of the building. Under this the greater part of the congregation assembled, hearing quite easily through a casement window close to the pulpit.

In 1876 the rights and privileges of the Parish Church of St. Lawrence passed by legal enactment from the old to the new edifice.

[1] Og l., *Mem.*, p. 189.

"Amidst so much that has been altered all around it," remarks Mr. Odell, "the old church stands apparently as it has always stood. Yet only apparently. For it too has gone through transformations of environment, and size and shape in its history. No longer does it stand in sweet sequestered solitude, as old engravings show it a hundred years ago—the land all un-enclosed around it, the view all uninterrupted east, west, and south—landward and seaward. True, it has not lost in picturesqueness by the planting of the yew trees. The wall built opposite the churchyard gate has long blocked out the view eastward. And as to peaceful solitude! The melodies of nature are now broken in upon by the not too tuneful locomotive—still you can enter its church yard, and try to forget what there is outside and meditate among the tombs. You can peep at the little added piece of churchyard and wish, as many visitors have wished, that in so lovely a spot room might one day be found for your own resting place."[1]

OF THE RECTORS OF THE "OLDE CHURCH."

The list of the rectors dates back to the year 1201, and the record, moreover, is an interesting one in other ways. One of the rectors was summoned before the King's Court, but claiming benefit of clergy refused to appear. Another was "protected" from the civil tax-gatherer, the clergy at that period being assessed for taxes separately from the laity. A third incumbent was deprived by Queen Elizabeth for refusing the oath of supremacy, and another was ejected from his living in the days of the Commonwealth, notwithstanding "the favourable testimony given as to his ministry by the parishioners."

A.D. 1201. Roger—living 1236—named in Assize Roll in the Record Office.

,, 1297. "Richard, parson of St. Lawrence Wath."[2]

(In a Patent Roll is entered—"Protection granted to Richard, parson of the church of St. Lawrence, Wa."[3]

(At this period, and onwards for two centuries or more, before surnames became common, it was customary to distinguish persons either by the profession or trade they followed, or the place from which they came.)

,, 1314. Ricardus de Twiforde, acolite, inst. rector.
Patron, Sir Simon de Harcourt.

,, 1325. Henricus de Wheleham, presbyter, inst. rector.
Patron, Sir Theobald Russel, Knt.

,, 1326. Ricardus de Twiforde, presbyter, rector (re-inst.)
Patron, the same.

(Another rector's name is mentioned in the Dean's return, 1325.)

,, 1344. John Hogeman, presbyter, inst. rector on the death of the late rector.
Patron, Lady Eleanora Russel.

,, 1349. John de Rymptone, clerk, inst. rector.
Patron, the same.

,, 1356. Richard de Estone, presbyter, inst.
Patron, the same.

[1] *Notes on Some of the Smallest Churches in Great Britain*, p. 5 (Knight, printer).
[2] *Cal. Pat. R.*, Edw. I, 1292—1301. [3] *Ibid.*, 23 Edw. I, 1297.

No date. "Willelmus," chaplain, inst. rector.
Patron, Sir Maurice Russel, Knt.

("dominum Willelmum rectorem capelle S. Laurencii de Wathe" appears as one of three Isle of Wight clergy excommunicated in 1372 for not having paid a subsidy ordered by Parliament and the benefice was ordered to be sequestrated.)[1]

A.D. 1379. "dominus Robertus Hancocke," presbyter, inst. rector by proxy, *viz.*, Richard de Husseborne, clerk, on the death of "dominus Willelmus," the chaplain. Patron, Maurice Russel.[2]

No date. John Promis, chaplain, inst. rector. Date of collation not given.
Patron, the same.

A.D. 1410. John Coventre, inst. rector on the resignation of the late incumbent.
Patron, the same.

,, 1431. John Chadde, inst. rector. Patron, Sir Thomas Russel, Knt.

No date. John Marchand, inst. rector. No date given.

A.D. 1520. Thomas Bothe, chaplain, inst. rector on the death of the late incumbent.
Patron, John Cottismore.

,, 1536. Michael Raby, inst. rector.
Patron, the same.

(The following entry is recorded in the Ecclesiastical visitation of the Isle of Wight, March and April, 1543, by Nicholas Harpisfelde. "Eccl. St. Laurencii—Michael Rabye, Rec. Jo. Prowte," the latter probably being the churchwarden.)

,, 1557. Thomas Bryche, inst. rector, on the death of the late incumbent.
Patron, Sir Edward Untone.

(Amongst the number of Hampshire incumbents deprived in the early years of Queen Elizabeth's reign for refusing the oath of supremacy is found the name of the rector of St. Lawrence, as one of the two Isle of Wight clergy.)

,, 1562. John Orchard, inst. rector, in place of Thomas Bryche.
Patron, Lady Anne Worsley.

(In a codicil to the will, proved Nov. 1580, the following legacy is entered: "To Mr. John Orchard, Parson of St. Lawrence, 20 shillings.")

,, 1595. Robert Yockin (of Cheshire, pleb. Brasenose College), inst. rector.
Patron, Thomas Worsley.

,, 1627. Thomas Payne, inst. rector.
Patron, Sir John Paton,—Sir Henry Worsley, the heir, being then a minor, 14 years old.

,, 1650. Thomas Moseley, inst. rector. Patron, the same.

This incumbent was one of the eight Isle of Wight clergy removed at the time in consequence of the action taken by Parliament, and was superseded by Newnham, whose name is mentioned in Calamy's memorial. Reprisals followed, and the intruding clergy were driven from their cures. "Newnham, of St. Lawrence, though deprived of that benefice, was not silenced, but continued to preach in various places, more particularly at the church committed to his charge at Road Bridge and Stroud Green, a pretty spot on the road between Chale and Shorwell. On Sunday, November 4th, 1688, an outdoor service was being held, and "on hearing that the Dutch armament conveying

[1] *Wyk. Reg.*, vol. ii, p. 143 (H. Rec. Soc.). [2] *Wyk. Reg.*, vol. i, p. 102 (H. Rec. Soc.).

William of Orange was sailing past the shores of the Island, he set aside the subject he intended to have preached on, and gave his people a discourse suited to such a circumstance of Providence."[1]

No date. Thomas Newnham, rector, ejected 1662.[2]

"Thomas Newnham, son of Thomas, was born at Gotten in the Isle of Wight in 1631, an ancient seat belonging to the family. His education in the island was first at Kingston school, and afterwards at the free school in Newport, where he made some proficiency in grammar learning, with a brother of his who was designed for the University. But he refusing to go, the father asked his son Thomas, whether he was willing to be a minister. And he discovering an inclination to it, was sent to Oxford. He and Dr. Pettis (who afterwards conformed, etc.) returned together from Oxford to the island, and were ordained together by presbyters in Newport Church. Mr. Newnham was ejected from his living in 1662 for Nonconformity. Some of his parishioners showed a particular respect for him, by carrying in their corn before Bartholomew day, on purpose that he might have the tythe of it. After his ejectment he took all the opportunities that offered to do good to souls. He sometimes went to Whitwell Church to hear Mr. Harrison. Being there one Lord's day with the rest of his neighbours, and Mr. Harrison not coming, the people desired Mr. Newnham to officiate, and that they might not be wholly disappointed he complied, and preached to them from the seat where he was sitting. He was in his sermons a Boanerges. . . . . He met with much trouble on account of his Nonconformity, and was bound over and fined, etc., but bore all with invincible patience, courage, and constancy of mind. . . . He died of the smallpox at Whitwell, and was interred in the church there in 1689 in the 58th year of his age. On his deathbed his faith was lively and strong, and his resignation to the will of his heavenly Father was remarkable."—(From Edmund Calamy's *Nonconformists' Memorial,* abridged and corrected by S. Palmer, 1802).

A.D. 1663. William Swayne, inst. rector. Patron, the same.

,, 1692. Daniel Dickinson, inst. rector. Patron, Sir Robert Worsley, Bart.

,, 1694. Richard Burleigh, inst. rector. ,, ,, ,,
(son of Thomas, of the Isle of Wight, cler. Oriel College, matric. 1689, B.A. 1693, M.A. from Trinity College, Cambs., 1709, rector of Chale and of Brown Candover, Hants, 1709).[3]

,, 1700. "Mr." Nutkins, inst. rector. Patron, Sir Robert Worsley, Bart.

,, 1734. Corbet Shelbery, inst. rector. ,, ,, ,,
(son of John, of Gatcombe, I. of W., pleb. Brasenose College, matric. 1711, B.A. 1716; vicar of Middleton, co. Hants, 1722, and rector of St. Lawrence, and of Chale, I. of W., 1734, died 1751).[4]

,, 1754. Francis Worsley, LL.D., inst. rector.
Patrons, Robert and James Worsley.
(son of David, of Whitwell, I. of W., arm. New College, matric. 1749; B.C.L., 1764; rector of Gatcombe and Chale, 1764, ob. 1808).[5]

,, 1808. John Lancaster, inst. rector. Patron, The Trustees.

,, 1812. Henry Worsley, LL.B., rector. Patron, The Hon. C. A. Pelham.
(son of Thomas, of Pidford, I. of W. arm. St. Mary Hall, matric. 1777, B.C.L. and D.C.L., 1791, rector of Gatcombe, 1801, of Wolverton, Hants, 1804; of St. Lawrence, 1812; died at Gatcombe, April, 1844).[6]

,, 1844. Benedict Arthure, inst. rector. Patron, The Earl of Yarborough.
(B.A. 1840, M.A. 1855, rector of All Saints', Worcester, 1860).[7]

[1] Boucher James, *Letters Hist.*, vol. ii, p. 391.
[2] *Al. Oxon.*, Early Ser., vol. iii, p. 1063.
[3] *Ibid.*, vol. i, p. 214.
[4] *Ibid.*, vol. iv, p. 1342.
[5] *Ibid.*, vol. iv, p. 1610.
[6] *Ibid.*, vol. iv, p. 1610.
[7] *Ibid.*, vol. i, p. 32.

The New Church, St. Lawrence, 1900.

A.D. 1852. Charles Levingstone, inst. rector.
Patron, The Earl of Yarborough.
,, 1865. Clifford Malden, inst. rector. ,, ,, ,,
(the last rector of the old and first incumbent of the new church).
,, 1886. Robert W. Odell, rector. Resigned, 1902.
,, 1902. Brent Rich. Robt. Neville. Resigned, 1907.
,, 1907. Thomas Elvin Coverdale, inst. rector, 1907.

The Church Registers.

The parochial records are meagre and fragmentary, having been in the custody and charge of clergymen holding other cures. The earliest register is a small parchment-bound book, eight inches by four, and dates back to the year 1746.

On the first page appears "The names of the Houses in the Parish as given in March, 1756," eleven in number, with the "Poor House." This list gives the names of the resident householders, *viz.*, Hunt (two), Dyer (two), Paine, Pittis, Coleman, Mackett, Silsbury, and Harvey. A further list, compiled in 1770, gives the "family of Coleman" as occupants of four of the cottages.

In the year 1757 the following is entered:—"Having been desired to insert some names omitted by the late minister, and not finding room convenient to do it, and part of the Register being wrote in a very bad Hand, I have been at the trouble of writing it over again as it here follows. F.W." (Francis Worsley—the rector).

The first entry relates to the christening of Richard Coleman:—"The day on which he was done is not known, but believed to be in April, 1738." The first marriage recorded is between Thomas Pain and Sarah Hunt. Members of these two families have been residents in the village for at least two centuries.

The baptisms for the fifty years, 1746 to 1796, were a hundred and five in number, the deaths registered for the same period being 72. A singular oversight occurred in the year 1800. "James, the son of William Bull, was privately baptised as a female by the name of Jane, but the infant was afterwards discovered to be a boy, as appears from a certificate furnished by Mr. Waterworth, surgeon of Newport, to the effect 'that the child in question is a boy.'"

In the earlier records of burials, the age is not entered nor any comment made unless there is something exceptional to be mentioned in connection with it. This occurred in the case of David Coleman, who had died at the noteworthy age of 98, and in that of James Coleman, whose death in 1793 is due to "a fall over clift."

Several entries refer to persons at sea, and whose bodies were found cast up on the foreshore:—John Orchard, 1778; G. Harvey, 1784; three shipwrecked mariners in 1786, and David Coleman, 1792. The cause of death of James White, aged 70, "under Inoculation a putrid fever ensued," and this entry is followed a few days later by that of Thomas Orchard.

On February 1st, in the year 1799, "a young man named Morey and a young woman named Jane Saunders, servant at Old Park, were killed by part of the cliff falling upon them at the time of a shipwreck (a West Indian ship, called the *Three Sisters*), and buried with the bodies of nine mariners and one passenger drowned at the above shipwreck, which happened just opposite the church. N.B.—The passenger was taken up again and removed by friends." The winter of 1799 was memorable for the great fall of snow, and for the intense cold that prevailed. One Thomas Brown was frozen to death at St. Lawrence, and John Humbey on Span Down.

The last entry in the register refers to a census taken :—"In pursuance of an Act of Parliament, the 27th day of May, 1811," from which it appears there "were 14 Inhabited Houses in the parish occupied by 18 families, consisting of 48 males and 53 females. In this number of 101 is included the Hon. J. Simpson's family, which consisted of twenty-one persons, and were only temporary residents, and also the Rev. Thomas Adams, a Dissenting minister and his wife, Lodgers at Widow Mackett's."

Several references to parish tithes are entered, "the rector has the full tithes of six acres in a field belonging to Week Farm lying north of Wathbournes, which field is divided about the middle by a foot-path, and the part lying eastward of the path is called 18 acres, and the part to the westward 19 acres, in both which pieces of land the rector has also two parts in three of the tithes." "The rector is also entitled to the same amount of tithes in a close called the 'Little Field,' north of the 'Forty-two acres.' It plainly appears what the rector is entitled to upon Dean Farm. That is, he has *all* the tithes of Wathbournes called thirty-five acres. F. Worsley, September, 1761."

Another memorandum, made by Dr. Worsley, refers to a sum of £1. 5*s*. 0*d*. due from Little Span :—"It does not appear clear whence this amount arises, the present rector says, it is the Tythes of three acres part of a field of nine acres, called 'Mark's Land.'" A later rector, Mr. Lancaster, in 1809, remarks :—"The sum seems to be an exorbitant one for three acres so long ago as the year 1754. Query—should it not be six acres?"

In 1777 the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty agreed to grant £200 out of their Bounty in conjunction with Sir Richard Worsley, Bart., who gave £100, and Mrs. Pyncombe's Trustees, who also gave £100, for the purpose of augmenting the income of the benefice. It was decided to invest this £400 in the purchase of tithes. A Commission was issued on 26th June, 1778, for ascertaining the income of the benefice. The yearly value was returned as £36. 13*s*. 6*d*. (net), arising from glebe and tythes paid by the farmers. The Commission, which is signed by J. Price, Clerk; J. A. Worsley, and W. Roberts, also contains a statement that the glebe land of St. Lawrence consists of 10 acres and 20 perches exclusive of rocks, as per a Terrier in the Registry of the Archdeacon of Winchester. Owing to delay in carrying out the legal formalities

connected with the purchase, it was not until 11th September, 1810, that the conveyance was duly completed, and tithes were purchased for £390, and conveyed for the perpetual augmentation of the rectory. The tithes conveyed were :—

"All the tithes of corn, grain, hay, wool, lambs, milk, oblations, obventions, emoluments, proxies . . . . formerly of Mill Bagster and late of Sir Richard Worsley arising out of the Farm and Lands known by the name of Thorn Place, Burstoes, and Paradise and Combey situate in the Parish of Whitwell and now, or late, in the occupation of Hannah White. And also the tithes of corn, grain [as before stated] arising out of the Farm known as Aylesbury and Grundies also situate in Whitwell, and now in the occupation of Robert Hardley and which said several farms . . . . contain on the whole 49 acres, 1 rood, and 18 perches, more or less."

In the apportionment of the tithes of the Whitwell parish in 1844 an entry is made to the effect that "That the Rev. H. Worsley, D.D., as Rector of the Parish of St. Lawrence is entitled to the tithes of corn, grain, hay and milk arising from or accruing due upon certain lands of the said parish, of the estimated quantity of 44 acres and valued at £17.

The parsonage house was built in 1866-7 at a total estimated cost of £1,367, on glebe belonging to the benefice. It was altered and enlarged in 1872.

Sir Maurice Russel, of Yaverland, St. Lawrence, etc., was the third son of Sir Ralph Russel, his elder brothers, Theobald, living 1336, and John, living 1340, both died s.p. in their father's lifetime. Sir Maurice is frequently mentioned in connection with commissions held for the co. of Gloucester in Calendars of Patent Rolls, 1401-5, 1405-8. It may fairly be concluded that he took an active part in affairs, and would have been mentioned later in the succeeding calendars, had he not been incapacitated, perhaps, through ill-health from that date till his death in 1421. It may be surmised, since he seems to disappear suddenly after 1408, that he had a long illness that laid him aside till his death.

Lay Subsidy Rolls. Other rolls in the Record Office contain references to "Wathe" and the residents and likewise to Whitwell. In a Court Roll, 2 Edward IV, reference is made to a "complaint of Thomas Hayne to the effect that William Vanner, on September 9th, at Wathe, broke and entered the barn-house of the said Thomas and took and carried away the door and other implements of the value of 39*s.* 11*d.* Defendant pleads not guilty, and demands a trial."

"At a Knights' Court held at Newport, 7th February, 2 Edward IV, Richard Warryn, of Godshill, enters a complaint that William Vanner, of Wathe, in October, 1459, with 60 sheep and 3 cows, destroyed and trod down 3 acres of his pasture to the damage of 20*s.* Defend^t pleads not guilty, etc.[1]

[1] *Court Rolls*, Portfolio No. 23, m. 14 and 15.

Chapter IX.

OF STENBURY MANOR AND THE MANORIAL LORDS —THE "DE HEYNOS."

The manor of Stenbury lies in the hollow of the borderland dividing Whitwell from Godshill, and with Weeke formed two of the four vills or tithings comprised in the parish of Godshill.

The name is of considerable antiquity. The suffix "bury" is the Anglo-Saxon equivalent for an embankment, enclosure, or site. Though no traces of earthworks remain, the situation on rising ground having an assured water supply, is one well adapted for defence. On the summit of the Downs overlooking the Manor are three well defined round tumuli. These, and other remains of cinerary urns, etc., found near the Manor are suggestive that some conflict may have been waged here, or in the near neighbourhood in pre-historic times.

The following entry is taken from Domesday Book :—

"Staneberie et Wipingeham tenet Rex. Cheping tenuit in alodium, de Rege Edwardo, pro 2 maneriis. Tunc, geldaverunt pro 3 hidis; modo pro 2 hidis. Terra est 7 carucatæ. In dominio sunt 2; et 7 villani et 10 bordarii cum 6 carucatis. Ibi 12 servi et 5 acræ prati. Valet et valuit semper, 12 libras."

The translation being :—

"The King holds Staneberie (Stenbury) and Wippingham. Cheping held it of King Edward as 2 manors, as an alod. It then paid geld for 3 hides; now for 2 hides. There is land for 7 ploughs. In (the) demesne are 2 ploughs; and (there are) 7 villeins and 10 bordars with 6 ploughs. There are 12 serfs, and 5 acres of meadow. It was always, and is, worth 12 pounds."

Cheping here referred to, was a wealthy English thegyn, described in Domesday Book as holding 13 manors in Hampshire, then worth 99 pounds a year—equal in present money values to some £2,200. He also had dues from three houses in Southampton and five in Winchester. He was probably an active supporter of Saxon Harold, and was dispossessed of his estates after the battle of Hastings, in favour of Ralph de Mortimer, a Norman follower of the Conqueror.

"The Manor"—Worsley says—"was held by the family of De Aula, soon after the Norman Conquest, from whom it descended to that of De Heyno"—adding in a footnote, "probably by marriage, as few purchasers are found in the Island at that period."[1] Worsley cites no authority for these statements. Albin repeats the statement fourteen years later, adding—"after more than two centuries it passed into the family of Beauchamp."[2] He likewise quotes no documentary evidence in support. Stone remarks, "The first known possessors were the De

[1] W., *App.*, No. 30.

[2] Albin's *Hist.*, *&c.*, *I. W.*, p. 568.

Photo by] [Alice Fisher.

Stenbury Manor, 1910.

Aulas, from whom, in the 13th century, it came, presumably by marriage, to the ancient family of De Heyno, who, I think we may safely surmise, built the old moated dwelling house of which not a trace remains."[1]

Of the association of the De Aulas thus quoted, I have found no trace. It was an important holding, and, in the time of Edward I. supplied "a man at arms" for Island defence. It is supposed that an early owner of the manor built and endowed the south, or St. Mary's Chapel, at Whitwell, for the use of his tenants.

OF THE "DE HEYNO" FAMILY.

The names of different members belonging to this family are mentioned from time to time in various deeds and charters, the earliest recorded being that of—

JOHN DE HEYNO, who held the manor of Stenbury, between 1263 and 1295. He took an active interest, throughout these years, in Island affairs. His name, "John de Heyno," is entered as one of the jurors in the inquisition[2] taken 47 Henry III (1263). Two other deeds were attested by him—

(*a*) He witnessed, as "Johanne de Heyno," a charter of Isabella de Fortibus, to Quarr Abbey.

(*b*) He signed as "Jo'hes de Heynon," a further charter from the countess to the vicar of the Chapel of the Blessed Nicholas, in Carisbrooke.

(The two foregoing deeds are referred to in a volume of MSS. entitled "Papers relating to the Isle of Wight, consisting of copies and extracts from charters, Patent Rolls, pleas, etc.")[3] His name and holding are enrolled in the List of Liberties claimed by Isabella de Fortibus and allowed by the Itinerant Justices 8 Edward I.

"Johannes de Heyno tenet unum feodum de comitissa in capite in Stenbury, et tenet maner' de Stenbury in domenico."[4]

Translation :—

"John de Heyno holds one fee of the countess in capite in Stenbury and holds the manor of Stenbury in demesne."

He was knighted by 1282, attesting as "John de Heyno, Knight," a deed dated Caresbrok, Isle of Wythg, All Saints' Day, 10 Edward I :—

"Isabella de Fortibus . . . . granted for life to Agnes de Monceaus, dr. of Robert de Monceaus, her whole manor of Craft and Cruk', with the advowson . . . . at a rent of £80. . . . ."[5]

As "John de Heynow, Knight," he attested a writing, "dated at Stokwelle, near Lambyeth, on the Monday before Martinmas, 1293, whereby, in consideration of 6,000 marks of silver in hand paid, Isabella de Fortibus . . . quitclaimed to Edward I the Isle of Wight with . . ."[6] Sir John married Mabilla . . . (the surname has not been traced). The Christian name is mentioned in a deed as follows :—

"Breve de seisina terrarum quæ fuerunt ipsius Johannis salva Mabillæ quæ fuit uxor ejusdem Johannis dote sua."[7]

[1] *Archit. Antiqt. of I. W*, vol. i, p. 83.
[2] *Add. MS.*, No. 24,789 (Br. Mus.).
[3] *Ibid.*, pp. 197 and 199.
[4] W., *App.*, No. 30.
[5] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 1272—1354, p. 53.
[6] *Ibid.*
[7] Roberts, *Calend. Genealog.*, No. 96, p. 769.

He died, 23 Edward I (1295), and is shown, by the inquisition following, seised of the manor :—

"Joh'es de Heyno'—*alias* Heynow"—

Stevenebury maner' in Insula Vectâ ut de honore castri de Caresbrok, Sutht'."[1]

WILLIAM DE HEYNO, son and heir, succeeded :—

"Willelmus de Heynon filius dicti Johannis est ejus hæres propinquior et est de ætate viginti novem annorum. Sutht'.[2]

Translation :—

"William de Heyno, son of the said John, is the next heir, and is of age 29 years."

He did homage for the estates on 12th August, 23 Edward I (1295).

"*De homagio Will'i de Heyno capto*—

Rex cepit homagium Will'i de Heyno filius et heredis Johannis de Heyno, defuncti, de omnibus terris et tenementis que idem Joh'es pater suus tenuit de Rege in capite, die quo obiit et ei terras illas et tenementa Rege reddidit. Et ideo mandatum est Malculino de Harlegh, escaetori, etc. Teste ut Rege, apud Westmonasterium, xii die Augusti."[2]

Translation :—

"Of the homage of William de Heyno taken :—

"The King has received the homage of William de Heyno, son and heir of John de Heyno, deceased, for all the lands and tenements which the said John, his father, held of the King in chief on the day that he died, and the King has restored those lands and tenements. And it is commanded to Malcolm de Harleye, escheator . . . ."

William de Heyno did homage, in similar terms, for the other lands his father held, in Oxford.[3]

His name appears in the following deed :—

1304. April 8. Sandford. "To the keeper of the King's wood at Parkhurst in the Isle of Wight—Order to cause William Russel, keeper of the King's manor of Sweyneston, in the said isle, to have as much timber as shall be necessary for the repair of the King's chapel in that manor and of the other houses of the King, in that isle, that are in William's custody."

"To William Russel, keeper, etc. Order to cause the said chapel and houses to be repaired, where necessary, by the view and testimony of William de Heyno and Will' de Godeshill."[4]

In the return made by the Dean of the Island, in 1305, it is mentioned "that the abbot of Lyra had the great and small tithes of William de Heyno, at Stenbury."

Four years later, on a Close Roll, is entered :—

1308. March 2. "To the sheriff of Southampton. Order to cause a coroner for that county to be elected in place of William de Heyno who is insufficiently qualified."[5]

In the Feudal Aid of 1316 is a reference to

"Hamaletti—Villa de Stonbury—Willelmus de Heynon."[6]

Nothing further is recorded of him, and the date when he died has not been traced.

[1] *Calend. Inq. p. m.*, vol. i, p. 124.
[2] *Exc. e. Rot. Finium*, 23 Edw. I, m. 10, Rec. Off.
[3] *Rot. Origin. in Curia Sc., Abbrev.*, vol. i, p. 88.
[4] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 32 Edw. I.
[5] *Ibid.*, 1 Edw. II.
[6] *Inq. & Ass. re Feudal A.*, p. 321.

SIR JOHN DE HEYNO, Knight, next had possession, and although the actual relationship is nowhere stated, he was, in all probability, the son and heir. The earliest reference presumably to him occurs in a Close Roll :—

"3 Edward II—

1310. "Mabel, late the wife of Roger de Langeford, a tenant in chief puts in her place John de Heyno and Robert Achard *sub alternatione* to seek and receive her dower in chancery."[1]

In the Subsidy Roll, 1 Edward III (1327), for the Estmedene, the first name entered on the Roll for the Parish of Godshill is that of "John de Heyno," and, in the list of jurors serving on the inquisition, 7 Edward III (1334), is the name of "Joh'is de Heyno, miles."[2] In a Charter Roll, under date 7 Edward III (1334), "John de Heyno, knight," is referred to in a matter relating to the minority of John de Insula, of Gatcombe. Lastly, in the Feudal Aid, of 1346, there is entered in the assessment :—

"Johannes Heynon tenet in Stenbury i f' quod fuit Willelmi de Heynon."[3]

Translation :—

"John de Heyno holds, in Stenbury, one Knight's fee which was of William de Heyno."

He died, 23 Edward III (1350), and is shown by inquisition seised of the manor.

"Joh'es de Heyno"—

"Stenbury maner' in Insula Vecta ut de honore castri de Caresbrok. Suthton."[4]

His wife survived him, and did fealty for the manor the following year, 24 Edward III :—

1350. Feb. 12. "To William de Ryngebourn, escheator, in the Isle of Wight. Order to take the fealty of Margaret, late the wife of John de Heyno, in accordance with the form of a schedule enclosed with these presents, and not to intermeddle further with the manor of 'la Steynbury' in that island, restoring the issues thereof to her, as the King has learned by inquisitions taken by the escheator, that John at his death was jointly enfeoffed with Margaret of the said manor by a fine levied in the King's Court, and that the manor is held in chief as of the honour of Carisbrooke Castle, by the service of paying 6 marks yearly in that Castle and of making suit at the court of Knights of Newport, every 3 weeks."[5]

PETER DE HEYNO would seem to have held the manor for a time. His relationship to his predecessor still remains conjectural. As "Lord of Stenbury" he is mentioned in "The Disposition of the Militia into Companies with the Names of their Commanders *temp.* of Edward III," having under his charge "Stenbury, Whitwell, Wroxall, Bonchurch, Cliff, Apse, Nyweton, and Sandham, the L^d^. of Wathe, his vintener."[6] A further reference to him is made by Sir John Oglander. The incident occurred during the siege of Carisbrooke Castle, by the French, in 1377.

"One Petrus de Heynoe came to Sir Hugh Tyrell, then Captayne of ye Island and tolde him he woold undertake with his sillver bowe to kill ye Com-

[1] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 3 Edw. II, p. 399.
[2] W., *App.*, No. 7.
[3] *Inq. & Ass. re Feudal Aids*, p. 338.
[4] *Cal. Inq. p. m.*, No. 29, vol. ii, p. 156.
[5] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 24 Edw. III.
[6] W., *App.*, No. 12.

maunder of ye Ffrench takinge his time, for he had observed him how nyghtes and morninges he came neare ye Castle; which on leave he killed owte of a loophole on ye west side of ye Castle."[1]

No further particulars of him are recorded, nor is the date of his demise known.

WILLIAM DE HEYNO appears to have had possession of Stenbury. His relationship or how long he was seised of the manor does not appear. No information on these points is forthcoming. By inquisition it is shown that he died in 1375, seised of the manor, leaving a son—a minor, heir to his estates :—

"*Will'us Heyno*"—

Stenenbury maner' in Insulâ Vectâ ut de castro de Caresbrok. Bouecombe maner'—Sutht'."[2]

GUY HEYNO, son and heir of William de Heyno, during his minority, was in charge of Ingelram de Coucy. On coming of age, in 1383, he petitioned for livery of his lands. The text of the petition is entered on a Patent Roll as follows :—

1384. Feb. 20. Westminster. "Commission to William de Ryngebourn, Ralph Wolverton, and Thomas Brerdyng to enquire touching the petition of Guy Heyno, son and heir of William Heyno, for livery of his lands, alleging that his father held divers lands in his desmesne as of fee, in the Isle of Wight, as of the Castle of Caresbrok, of Ingelram de Coucy and Isabella his wife, who before the said Ingelram's forfeiture, granted them, together with his marriage, to certain persons, to hold during his minority and that now he is of full age."[3]

The return made by the Commissioners, giving the particulars of the inquiry held at Newport, 16th May, 1384, is annexed, the text being given *in extenso* :—

7 Ric. II. No. 46. "*Willelmus Heyno.*"

[Writ annexed, dated at Westminster, 20 Feb., 7 Ric. II (1383-4).]

[16 May, 1384.] "Inquisicio capta apud Neuport in Insula Vecta xvj die Maii anno regni regis Ricardi Secundi vii. coram Willelmo Ryngebourne et sociis suis virtute cujusdam commissionis eisdem directe et huic inquisicioni con[stit]ute per sacramentum Johannis Kene (and 10 other names given) qui dicunt per sacramentum suum quod Willelmus Heyno fuit seisitus in dominico suo ut de feodo die quo obiit de Manerio de Stuenbury cum pertinenciis suis in insula predicta quod quidem Manerium tenebatur de Ingelramo Coucy nuper comite Bedeford et tunc domino Insula predicte per servicium militare ut de dominio castri sui de Caresbrok in eadem insula [quod occasione adhesionis predicti Ingelrami inimicis Franciæ captum fuit in manum domini Regis nunc et adhuc in manu sua existit] ac eciam per servicium quatuor librarum annui redditus ad Manerium suum de Bovecombe in dicta Insula ad festum Sancti Michaelis. Et dicunt quod dictum Manerium de Stuenbury valet per annum in omnibus exitibus ultra reprisam decem marcas. Item dicunt quod predictus Willelmus obiit die Lune proxima post festum Omnium Sanctorum anno regni regis Edwardii tercii post conquestum xlix Et quod Guido Heyno est filius et haeres propinquior ejusdem Willelmi et fuit etatis xxi^us^ annorum et amplius ad festum Nativitatis sancti Johannis Baptiste proximo preteritum. Et dicunt quod post mortem predicti Willelmi dictus Ingelramus predictum Guidonem simul cum Manerio de Stuenbury predicto cum pertinenciis in manus suas seisuit causa minoris

[Monday, 5 Nov., 1375.]

[24 June, 1383]

[1] Ogl., *Mem.*, p. 74.

[2] *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, No. 46, vol. iii, p. 59.

[3] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 7 Rich. II.

etatis ejusdem Guidonis et dictum Manerium cum pertinenciis et cum custodia et maritagio ejusdem Guidonis, Cristine Berland per literas suas patentes concessit usque ad plenam etatem ejusdem Guidonis. Que quidem Cristina statum suum quem habuit in Manerio predicto simul cum custodia et maritagio dicti Guidonis Thome del Isle dedit et concessit. Qui quidem comes Bedeford, Cristina, Thomas, et executores ejusdem Thome a tempore mortis predicti Willelmi predictum Manerium cum pertinenciis usque in hodiernum diem occuparunt et exitus et proficua inde provenientia perceperunt causa predicta. In cujus rei testimonium predicti Juratores huic inquisicioni sigilla sua apposuerunt. Datum die loco et anno supradictis." [1]

Translation :—

Inquisition taken at Newport, in the Isle of Wight, on the 16th day of May, in the 7th year of the reign of King Richard II, before William Ryngebourn and his associates by virtue of a certain Commission directed to them and constituted for the purpose of this inquisition on the oath of John Keene (and 10 others), who say, upon their oath, that William Heyno was seized in his demesne as of the fee, on the day he died, of the manor of Stenbury with its appurtenances in the said Isle and which manor used to be held of Ingelram Couci [lately], earl of Bedford and then Lord of the said Isle by Knight's service as of the Lordship of his castle of Carisbrook in the same Island [which on the occasion of the adhesion of the said Ingelram to the French enemies, was taken into the hand of the present King and up to now is in his hand] and also by the service of £4 of yearly rent to his manor of Boucombe in the said Isle on the feast of St. Michael. And they say, that the said manor of Stenbury is worth annually in all its issues, beyond reprise, 10 marks. Item, they say, that the said William died Monday next after the feast of All Saints, in the 49th regnal year of King Edward the 3rd after the Conquest. And that Guy Heyno, is son and nearest heir, of the said William, and was of the age of 21 years and more on the feast of the Birth of St. John Baptist last past. And they say that after the death of the said William the said Ingelram seised into his hands the said Guido with the manor of Stenbury aforesaid and its appurtenances by reason of the minority of the same Guy, and by letters patent granted the same manor with its appurtenances and the wardship and marriage of the same Guy, to Cristina Berland until the full age of the same Guy. Which Cristina gave and granted the estate she held in the said manor together with the custody and marriage of the said Guy, to Thomas del Isle. Which earl of Bedford, Cristina, Thomas and the executors of the same Thomas, from the time of the death of the said William have occupied the sd manor with its appurtenances up to the present day and have received the issues and profits arising from it for the cause mentioned." In witness of which, etc., etc.

Ingelram de Couci, referred to in the deed as lord of the Castle of Carisbrook, came to England in 1360, as one of the hostages of king John of France. His wife, Isabella, was the eldest daughter of king Edward III. Upon Richard II succeeding to the throne, in 1377, De Couci renounced allegiance to England and returned into the service of France.

It would appear that Agnes (surname not mentioned), the wife of Guy de Heyno, was probably among the kin of William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester. There was a certain Agnes, who, in a settlement that the Bishop made of the manors of Burnham and Brene, co. Somerset, in July, 1396, was described as "*Agneti uxori nuper Guidonus Ayno.*" The writer of the "Notes" [2] suggests that the Guy alluded to belonged to the island family of Haynow, of Stenbury.

It is also stated that several members of this family were Winchester

[1] *Inq. p.m.*, 7 Rich. II, No. 46.
[2] *Notes and Queries*, 10th Series, vol. xii, p. 61.

scholars. Thomas, one of the seventy, who entered the College buildings, when ready for occupation, in 1394; another Thomas entered in 1439; Richard in 1449; and John, 1466. The two latter are expressly stated in the register of admissions to be founder's kin.

The date when Guy de Heyno died is uncertain, but his death probably occurred before 1428.

JOHN HEYNO, presumably son and heir, is returned in the Feudal Aid, 1428, seised of the Manor :—

"Johannes Haynow tenet 1 f. m. in Stenebury, quod Willelmus de Haynow quondam tenuit."[1]

A similar return is made in 1431.[2] On a Patent Roll, 4 Henry VI, is entered :—

1426. Feb. 6. Commission to John Newenham, John Laurence, John Haynowe, and Lewis Mewys, or, any three or two of them, to muster all the fencible men in the Isle of Wight near the coast, in their best equipment, as often as may be necessary to resist invasion, it being reported that certain subjects of the duke of Brittany are at sea with a large fleet intending to attack this country contrary to the treaty of peace between the realms of France and England."[3]

Three years later, 7 Henry VI, a similar notice appears :—

1429. June 20. "Commission of array for the Isle of Wight to William Bramshote, John Haket, John Hayno, Lewis Mewys, John Appulton and the sheriff of the county of Southampton."[4]

His name is entered again in a later Roll, 12 Henry VI :—

"That the following, whose names have been certified into chancery by the said Knights of the shire, as those of persons who should take the oath not to maintain peace-breakers referred to in the said Act, should appear before the said Commissioners and take the said oath—inter alia—"*John Haynowe.*"[5]

No further history is recorded of him, and the date of his death has not been traced.

THOMAS HEYNO is found seised of the manor, 1 Edward IV (1461). His relationship is indefinite, though presumably the son of John Heyno. The following excerpt is from a Patent Roll :—

1461. May 28. "Commission to John Cheselburgh, abbot of Quarre, Geoffrey Gate, lieutenant, keeper and governor of the King's castle of Caresbroke and lordship and island of Wight, John Haket, Henry Trenchard, Richard Lake and Thomas Haynowe, to assemble the King's subjects of the said island . . . . for the defence of the castle and island against the King's enemies of France." . . . .[6]

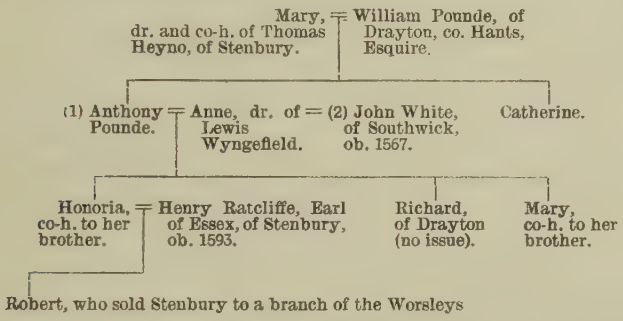
The following year :—

1462. March 14. The names of John Haket, John Russell, and Thomas Haynowe appear in a similar commission.[6]

At his death, in 1506, the direct line of the "de Heyno" family failed, Thomas Heyno having no male issue to succeed. His estates, by failure of heirs male, became divisible among five of his daughters—Elizabeth, Mary, Anne, Katherine, and Grace, some provision being also

[1] *Inq. & Ass. re Feudal Aids*, p. 353.
[2] *Ibid.*, p. 367.
[3] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 4 Hen. VI.
[4] *Ibid.*, 7 Hen. VI.
[5] *Ibid.*, 12 Hen. VI, p. 396.
[6] *Ibid.*, 1 Edw. IV.

made for two others—Bone and Mildred, who were nuns, at Wynteney (Hartley Wintney).[1] Mary, one of the daughters, married William Pounde of Drayton, esquire.



(Berry, *Hampshire Genealogies*, p. 194, gives a pedigree of "Pounde, of Drayton," taking up two foolscap pages.)

On a brass, in the church of St. James', Southwick, is an inscription, part of which reads :—"And Katyne, hys wiff, ye only Dought. of Willm. Pound, of Drayton, Esqre, and Mary hys wyff, one of the doughters and heyres of Thomas Haynos, of Thyle of Wight, Esquyer."[2]

Another of the daughters is possibly the lady mentioned in a return made, 23 Henry VII (1507), giving "the extent, value, etc., of the manors with the fines, etc., in the Isle of Wight":—

"The rent of Grace Haynowe's lands, ideot £vij. 11*s*. vij½"; and lower down is entered a payment—"Item, for mete and drinke of Grace Haynowe, ideot, for 52 weeks, every weeke 12*d*. for the said Grace Haynowe, 52*s*. Item, for Kyrtylles, smokks, and Kerchowes and other necessarie gere for the said Grace xiij*s*. iiij*d*."[3]

Hawise (or Avice) Haynowe's name is entered, in 1478 and 1492, in the list of Nuns at Romsey Abbey. She became sub-sextoness in 1502, sub-prioress by 1523, and was probably a sister of Thomas Heyno.[4]

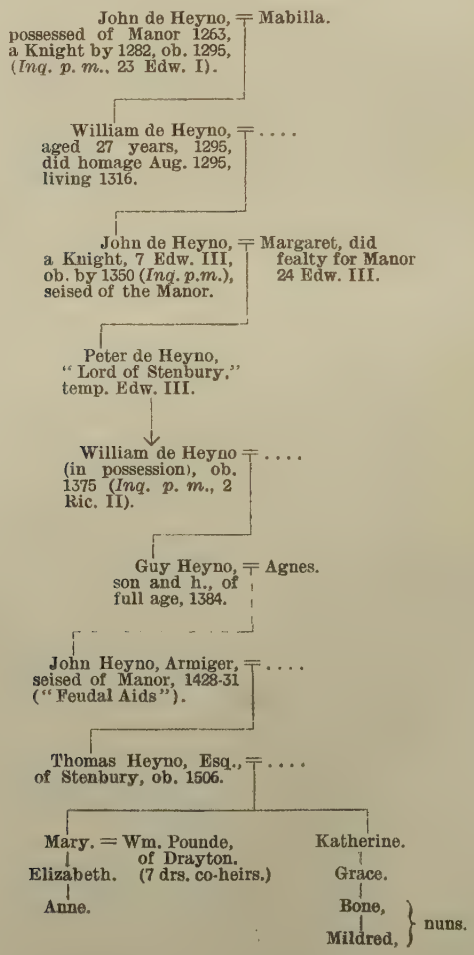
An early member of this family is probably William de Heyno, mentioned in 1325, as sub-deacon of St. Swithun's Priory, Winchester.[5]

Sir John Oglander has the following reference to the family in his Memoirs :—"In the north chawncell (of Godshill Church) are manie fayre stones that heretofore haue hadd portraictures and inscriptions on them in brasse, under whom are interred the bodies of the De Heynoes, who weare Lords of Stenburie and Whitewell, an awtient famelye, manie of them weare Knyghtes of good accompte."[6] Albin says :—"The brass figures and inscriptions were probably stripped off in the civil wars."[7]

[1] *P.C.C. Adeane*, 13.
[2] *Proc. H.F.C.*, vol. iii, p. 86.
[3] W., *App.*, No. 25.
[4] *Obedientiary R. of St. Swithun's*, p. 15 (H. Rec. Soc.).
[5] Liveing, *Rec. of Romsey Abbey*, pp. 236–7.
[6] Ogl., *Mem.*, p. 185.
[7] Albin, *Hist. I. W.*, p. 548.

The old manor house, according to Mr. Percy G. Stone, was in all likelihood pulled down and rebuilt during the tenure of the Pound family in the 16th century; the buttressed barn still existing was probably built at this time. Thomas Worsley purchased the manor from the heir and made some additions to the house, but it was Sir Robert Worsley who built the present house. The site of the old farmhouse was at a higher level, but on the same stream as the new building.

A SCHEME SHOWING THE DESCENT OF THE "DE HEYNO'S," OF STENBURY.



Whitwell Church, I.W., 1816.

Chapter X.

OF WHITWELL.

"This is the place, stand still, my steed,
Let me review the scene,
And summon from the shadowy Past
The things that once have been.
The Past and Present here unite
B'neath Time's flowing tide,
Like footprints hidden by a brook,
But seen on either side."

THE VILLAGE AND THE PARISH

From being out of the beaten track, Whitwell, or Whytewell, as written in the year 1297, has retained something of its old time look and still remains a picturesque, secluded, country village of undoubted antiquity, "on which as yet no improver has laid sacrilegious finger," nor has it caught the fancy of the speculative builder.

The origin of the name is probably connected with the spring or well of water referred to by Albin as rising in Ash Farm, "which will produce a hundred hogsheads of pure fine water in an hour." The name of the farm itself is thought to be derived from the Celtic waterword, "ache," meaning "the source." As previously mentioned, springs and streams furnish the oldest names in the county, and have generally been given to them by the earlier races settled there. Several other smaller streams issue from the junction of the chalk with the upper greensand, and joining the one from the farm spring, run in a circuitous channel through the valley and ultimately fall into the sea at Brading Haven.

It was in valleys similar to this, that the early settlers established their primitive villages, finding in the streams and water courses, one of the first necessaries of life, with a soil ready for tillage washed down from the heights above. Thus evidences of the early occupation of the district are furnished in the names of the various homesteads, manors, etc. "Witcombe," and "Nettlecombe," in the terminal word "cwm," afford proof of Celtic origin. "Week," anciently known as "Wiche," is derived from an Anglo-Saxon word "wic," a dwelling, "dean," is a Saxon forest boundary name; Sainham and Niton also furnish instances of the "hams" and "tuns" of early Anglo-Saxon habitation.

In Romano-British times, the country was divided into estates, usually called "villas." The "villa" was the property of a large

landowner, who lived in the "great house" if there was one, and cultivated the land immediately around it—the demesne—by his slaves, letting off the rest to half serf coloni. The "villa" system, in fact, was the origin of the mediæval manorial system. The estates varied in size, and formed, for the most part, sheep runs and corn lands.[1] In later Saxon times the same system was continued, and there is testimony that the central village of Whitwell was a place of human habitation before the Norman conquest. It is evident also that the early Saxon open field system of agriculture was followed here. The tithe commutation map shows on the southern side of the parish three "common fields" of considerable area, two of them called the "upper" and "lower common corn fields," were divided into thirty-nine of the characteristic acre or half-acre strips of those days. The third field is undivided and named the "common field." On the Witcombe side are shown "the upper" and "lower sheep commons," with the "common down ground" of eighty acres, now divided into twenty-four plots of varied sizes. In another part of the parish there are other fields suggestively named "Furlongs" and "Gores." The several divisions in them—consequent on the changes involved by the adoption of the Inclosures Act of 1756, and subsequent years—have been cleared away. When the tithes were commuted in 1844, the then owners of the land, representatives of the villagers who had originally participated in the common rights, had a number of these strips allotted to them, proportionate to the acreage of their holdings in the several fields, one holder having as many as thirteen and others having eleven, ten, nine, and four of the strips. The rector of Gatcombe, in connection with the chantry endowment, shared in the common rights, and had four of these plots allotted to him, two of them being in the "common field" and the other two lots in the "upper common corn field." Along the line of the village street stood forty or more small cottage tenements, each retaining the small half acre or acre strips of the meadow land attached to the early holding, being separated from the rest by a hedge, and thus furnishing traces of the central village of Saxon days.

Whitwell anciently formed a part of the extensive manor of Gatcombe, and the three sub-manors of Whitwell, Witcombe, and Abla were included within the parochial boundaries. The area, according to modern computation, is 1,883 acres, three parts—1,260 acres—being arable, and of the remainder, 472 acres pasture, and 43 woodland, the land always having had the reputation of being good corn bearing land. Warner, writing in 1793, says:—"The parish appears to be rich and populous, but deficient in trees," a defect that has since largely disappeared, for a later writer speaks "of the green lanes where the trees interlace overhead."

There is no exciting parochial history to refer to, and the registers throw little light upon the parish life, the parish scandals, customs, or superstitions. Lying apart from the busy haunts of men, the centuries have glided by this isolated little community uneventfully. That the

[1] *V. C. Hist.*, vol. i, p. 269.

Photo by] [H. B. Bacon.

Ancient "Church House," Whitwell.

inhabitants were men of like passions with ourselves is incidentally furnished by Mr. Odell's reference to an Assize Roll, *temp.* Henry III, six or more centuries ago—one of the parishioners, Henry de Whytewell, is there mentioned as being outlawed for having slain one of the villagers in the adjoining hamlet of St. Lawrence.

The Knights' Court held at Newport, 2 Edward IV. (1463), furnishes the following :—

"Complaint of Thomas Hayne, that William Vanner on Sept. 9th, *at Wathe*, broke and entered the barn house of the said Thomas and took and carried away the door, lock, and other implements to the value of 39*s.* 11¾*d.* Defendant pleads not guilty and demands a trial."

At a Court, held three weeks later, February 7th, 1463—

"Richard Warryn of the parish of Godeshull complains that William Vanner, of Wathe, on Oct. 12th, 38 Henry VI (1459) with 60 sheep and 3 cows, destroyed and trod down 3 acres of his pasture to the damage of 20*s.* Defendant demands a trial."

What the issue of the case was is left uncertain. It is evident, however, that Vanner was a terror to the district.[1]

A reference in Worsley's History to a lease of the "church-house," dated 1574, is calculated to throw a side light on one of the social aspects of village life at that time. The house is still in existence, standing in the highway, opposite to the road leading to the railway station, and was held of the lord of the manor by the inhabitants, and demised by them to John Brode, the following proviso being attached :—

"Provided always, that if the quarter shall need at any time to make a quarter-ale or church-ale, for the maintenance of the chapel, that it shall be lawful for them to have the use of the said house, with all the rooms, both above and beneath, during their ale."[2]

In earlier days every parish had a house of this kind where meetings could be held. It was a sort of parish club house, provided with spits, crocks, etc., suitable for dressing provisions. The owners were the churchwardens in virtue of their office. If let on lease, as in this instance, reservation was made for its use when the parishioners held their feasts. At a time when tea or coffee was unknown home-brewed beer was a primary necessity. We are told elsewhere of the churchwardens providing "a gallon of beer for their Bishop" when he came to inspect their church, or, "noting that for time to come, if there be any Restorations done to ye church, that the workmen shall be A Lowed noe strong beer att a parish charge." The church festivals, the patron saint's days, and the village merry makings brought many holidays in their train, when the whole parish met and had good cheer, whilst the proceeds of the entertainment went to the common chest to buy something to add to the brightness of the church service, to repair the church fabric, or to aid in the relief of the poor. The local inns came later, so Whitwell at this period had their ales at the church house, specially brewed, strong enough to move the hearts, and to open the purse strings quite as effectually as the fiery eloquence and stirring appeals of later days.

[1] *Court Rolls*, Portfolio 202, No. 23 (Rec. Off.). [2] *W. Hist.*, p. 210.

"The drink was apparently a sweet beverage made with hops or bitter herbs. In quality it was not the same as the modern beer, was less heavy, and scarcely an intoxicant."[1] In the register of a neighbouring parish there is entered:—"Item, for Workmen in Beere when they hung the bells," and at Freshwater, time of Henry VIII, Richard Pry of that place, in a deposition made by him against Sir Richard Porter, parson of Freshwater, says: "That as they were drinking together in their church hows' he used words derogatory to the King."

The village stocks for social offenders formerly stood at the north-eastern corner, outside the wall, of the churchyard, between the two ancient elm trees. Both of these trees have lately succumbed to the autumnal gales. Local tradition affirms that the last occupant of the stocks was a Niton man caught napping in the village. Much ill-will and strife existed between the villages of Niton and Whitwell, connected with the smuggling ventures. Feuds were of frequent occurrence and reprisals naturally followed; such was most probably the case in the instance before us.

There exists another reminder of past times, in the "pound." This was a Saxon institution and an appendage to the manor. It was used not for stray cattle only, but animals belonging to a person in debt could be seized and placed in the pound till the debt was paid. In a dilapidated state, it stands close to the side of the highway leading to Godshill, near the manor farm, and has probably been located there for centuries. In the palmy days of the village community the official connected with it was elected annually. As the "Punder" he held land in the village in virtue of his office, and had charge of the fences and of straying cattle. These offices have long fallen into disuse, and it now forms a part of the police duty to report cases of animals straying on the king's highway.

The Parish Registers.

In looking through the first "Register of burialls for the Quarter of Whitwell," it is found that the entries date back to 1678, in Charles II's reign. (An earlier register, 1559-1653, has been lost since 1831.) The several entries up to 1706 would appear to have been copied in from earlier records, and are made in a fine, legible, handwriting, with ink which still retains its colour. The same writer probably filled in the subsequent records, as occasion called for them, till the year 1742. From 1747 to the close of 1752 the handwriting is evidently that of a learner, with faulty spelling, and, as some comment seemed called for, the curate, Mr. Hodgson, appends a note to the effect "that these names were inserted by the Parish Clerk," adding: "The Reverend and Learned Mr. Wood, M.A., late Fellow of Queen's College, Oxford, Vicar, inducted July 5th, 1751." From 1756-63 the Rev. W. Sewell, who was also curate of St. Nicholas, Carisbrooke, makes the several entries; then for a few months the succeeding curate, the Rev. T. Andrews, M.A., officiates. In April, 1764, the parish clerk, David Jones, had charge,

[1] Peacock, *Arch. Jour.*, vol. xli.

and his bad penmanship and equally bad ink have sufficed to make the records almost illegible. The spelling "burialles," "burid," "marrigs," "married," with the date "ano dominy," leave much to be desired. From 1771 onwards the several records are carefully entered, the character of the hand-writing only varying from time to time.

The parish clerk was an important village functionary and had many duties. At first he was doorkeeper, bearer of holy water, reader to the church, etc., and must necessarily have had some modicum of knowledge even in illiterate times. The allusions already made show, in these later days, how much his spelling and his writing left to be desired, and probably his reading in the way of emphasis, accent, and cadence did not excel. Later these duties changed to ringing the early morning bell, the curfew at night, and the "dishing up" bell after the sermon. His multifarious duties included keeping people awake during the service and the village boys in order, and he was also paid a small sum to drive the dogs out of the church. The clerk had then to lead the service, "but has been now put to silence by the surpliced choir, the grave digger, and the cleaner, and the type only survives in out of the way places":—

> "There goes the parson, oh, illustrious spark!
> And there, scarce less illustrious, goes the clerk."

The earliest name entered in the burial register is that of "Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Newnham," probably the owner of the Whitwell estates at that time, followed by that of Bromand, a member of a yeoman family resident on a small freehold of the same name. This name, with that of Normand, recurs during the next thirty years and then ceases. The deaths of John Abraham, "a souldier," and of Roger Valour, "a stranger," are entered.

As early as the reign of Edward I "every village had to find one effectual, fully armed soldier." John Abraham may thus have been "ye village Souldier."

For the first hundred years no details are entered, and the age is not recorded until 1780, an exception being made in the case of Henry Pain, whose age is specially mentioned as "101 years." The cause of death is omitted, though an exceptional comment "died of small pox," "of a fever," or "of a consumption," is noted. No interments are entered between the dates 1712-24. It is worthy of note that of the one hundred and eighty-three interments during the thirty years, 1780-1809, thirty-seven of the number—one in five—attained the age of seventy years and upwards, a striking testimony to the healthiness of the district and the constitutional vigour of the inhabitants.

The village of Whitwell, writes Dr. Martin, can boast of having numbered among its inhabitants several individuals whose term of existence extended over a hundred years. A woman, named White, died some years ago whose age was a hundred and three years, and an old man of the name of Anthony Edmonds died there, not many years since, whose age amounted to one hundred and four years.

Few births are recorded in the baptismal register during the earlier years, and at first these are entered in a tentative sort of way, suggesting that the notice was either unusual or unnecessary. The three births first recorded in the years 1690-3-5 were the children of James Searl. None are entered in the three subsequent years. In 1606, "John Searl, gent.," was the freeholder of Witcombe Manor. The heading is afterwards changed for "Christinings" until 1785, when that of "Baptisms" is substituted.

With respect to marriages, the first couple united in the bonds of wedlock in 1699 have simply their names given:—"Michael Mackett and Elizabeth Woodnut." Of the 129 couples married in the interval between 1754 and 1809, of which the full particulars are entered, nineteen were married by special licence and the remainder by banns. Of the men thirty-four came from outside parishes—two from St. Lawrence, one from Bonchurch, three from Niton, one from Chale, fourteen from Godshill, and eight from Newport, etc. Fifty-eight of the number were unable to sign their names in the register. The relative frequency of the Christian names was:—William, 23; James, 27; John, 20; Thomas, 13; Robert, 6; and Richard, 4, etc.; no double names were entered. The women were more illiterate than the men, ninety-three of the number being unable to write. Six only were extra parochial, five coming from the parish of Godshill, and one from Newport. In the 129 Christian names there were 28 Marys, 17 Anns, or Annes, 16 Elizabeths, 15 Janes, and 14 Sarahs. The following comparative table gives the entries of Births, Deaths, and Marriages from 1680 to 1809:—

Years	1680 to 1689	1690 to 1699	1700 to 1709	1710 to 1719	1720 to 1729	1730 to 1739	1740 to 1749	1750 to 1759	1760 to 1769	1770 to 1779	1780 to 1789	1790 to 1799	1800 to 1809
Burials ..	55	37	40	12 *c*	13 *e*	45	48	49	55	30 *f*	61	64	63 *g*
Baptisms ..	—	7 *a*	44 *b*	25 *d*	60	85	78	101	97	110	151	133	129 *h*
Marriages ..	—	1	1	—	—	1	11	20	19	14	25	21	35

Number of years omitted—*a*, 5; *b*, 1; *c*, 7; *d*, 2; *e*, 6; *f*, 1; *g*, 1; *h*, 1.

The inhabitants of the parish numbered 309 in 1632, and are stated, by Worsley, to number 344 in 1795. In 1801 the population had risen to 405, and in 1841 to 660. It would then appear to have remained stationary, for in 1891 the population was 653. According to the 1901 census, there were 163 inhabited houses and 633 inhabitants.

From 1851 onwards the village participated in the general prosperity of the south side of the island.

It is interesting to follow the development in spelling that takes place in the course of a century in some of the names recorded, *e.g.*, Elener, Elenor, Elianor, Eleanor, Ellenor; Hana, Hanna, Hanah; Hails, Hailes, Hayles; Ninam, Ninnam, Newnam, Newnham; Aterhill, Atterill, Atrill; Bondel, Bondle, Bundell, Bundle. The following Christian names:—Thomasin, Thomasina, Theophila, Philadelphia, Bethynia, Selah, are singular, and furnish a contrast to those of the Bonchurch and Niton parishes.

Photo by] [H. B. Bacon.

Ancient Porch, Whitwell Church.

A noticeable feature, in looking through the early registers, is the comparative isolation which must have existed between the several villages in or near the Undercliff. Family names current in one village, and recurring there over and over again in one or other of the three registers for a century and a half, are found absent, or recurring only at lengthened intervals, in the adjoining hamlets, suggesting that the several parishes were small, self-contained communities, subject to few external influences, intermarrying amongst themselves, and rarely choosing partners outside the village confines. In Bonchurch the family names recorded were chiefly those of Dyer, Mackett, Symons, Prouten, Stagg, Jeffrey, and Harber. At Whitwell these names give place to those of Russell 21, Harvey 12 (1754-1834), Attrill 8 (1777-1823), Bundel 5 (1757-1801), Woodnutt 6 (1699-1800), Reynolds 6 (1761 1827), Jacobs 7 (1755-1822), out of 238 marriages recorded in the register between 1699-1837. At Niton the surnames that occur most frequently are those of Pettis or Pyttis, Orchard, Harvey, Blow, How, Colenutt, and Hayward.

Whitwell and Niton furnish many genealogical links with early island yeoman families. For example, members of the Jacob family have been resident in Whitwell from a date prior to 1379. The name "Johannes Jacob, cultor, Villata de Whitwell," is entered on the Subsidy Roll, *temp.* Richard II. On the assessment list for the adjacent parish of Chale, "Thoma Jacob, cultor, pelliparius et uxor ejus," is entered. In the later Roll, 36 Henry VIII (1545), Thomas Jacobs is a resident in the district. The burial of Bartholomew, in 1757, is entered in the parish register. He was the more immediate ancestor of the "Jacobs" of Newchurch, and the late Dean's family (of Christ Church, New Zealand). The Dean was descended from the second son of Bartholomew, his father being W. H. Jacob, of Chale. The marriages of William, 1755, of Isaac in 1783, and of James, 1814, are entered in the marriage register. Henry, of Shorwell, was united to Fanny Attrill, of Whitwell, in 1806. Henry D. Cole[1] records the death of Johannes Jacob, at Whitwell, in 1579. Arms: "Argent, a chevron gules between three tigers' heads erased proper." Motto: "Tantum in superbos." "Only against the proud."

The "Hardley" family, of Godshill, Niton, and Whitwell, have been resident for at least four centuries. H. D. Cole[1] says the name was derived from "Hardlei," a manor in the island at the time when the Domesday Book was compiled. A member was resident at Stenbury, in Henry VIII's reign, and descendants were living there in 1865. Deeds in my possession refer to leases of various properties granted from the time of William and Mary. In 1658 "Robert Hardley, yeoman, of the Quarter of Whitwell, married Miss Harvey, of Dean." Captain James Hardley, of Newport, Lieut. Thomas Hardley, of Niton, and Ensign William Hardley, of Shorwell, holding commissions in the volunteer regiments of 1799, were members of this family. Descendants of the family are now resident in Ventnor. Arms: "Argent, on a bend sable, three cross crosslets of the first, between two lions' heads, erased gules."

[1] *The Heraldic Bearings of the Families of the I. W.*

Nearly related to the Hardley's are the "Cole" family, descendants of Valentine Cole, entered on the Subsidy Roll, 39 Elizabeth (1597), and whose name and holding are given in the Survey of Niton manor in 1605. Lineal descendants of this ancestor can be traced to Captain Robert Cole, who, in 1799, raised the first volunteer company, known as the Niton Loyal Volunteers, in the Isle of Wight, and had the right to take precedence of all other officers. Lieut. James and Ensign Cole, in the West Medene Yeomanry, both of Godshill, belonged to this island family. Members of the family, till quite recently, held Sainham Farm in that parish.

The "Legges" of Stenbury and Atherfield are descendants probably of Thomas Legge, one of the jurors at the inquisition taken at Newport in 1428, a family represented later by William Legge, an executor of the will, dated November, 1589, of John Worsley, of Appuldurcombe. Other members are found attesting deeds affecting property in the district throughout the 17th century.

Another family, the "Stone" family, of Niton and Whitwell, date back to nearly the same period of time. A halo of romance has grown up around two members—David Stone, who died at the age of ninety, and Ralph Stone, his son, both of them having been noted leaders of the contraband associations of their day. The "Temples," of Ford and Newport, were resident here throughout the 18th century. The last resting places of members of the "Pain" family are recognisable under the six tombstones in the churchyard. The "Newnhams" or "Newmans," though owning large and valuable properties in the neighbourhood, have not left any mementos of their residence here. The earliest reference occurs in the Archidiaconal visitation, held March, 1543:—"R. Newman, capella Whitewell." A badly written note by the side of the name refers apparently to a grant for repairs. He was possibly churchwarden for that year. Two years later "Richard" and Thomas Newman appear as parishioners in the Subsidy Roll, 36 Henry VIII (1545). In 1545 Richard Newnam holds office as churchwarden. Two of their descendants, Nicholas and William, are entered in the "Noate of the Freeholders" given by Worsley, of those who held of his Majesty's castle of Carisbrooke, in 1606.[1] Thomas Newnham's name appears in the Knighten Court for 1625. In 1627 "Nicholas Numan, Nyghton," had to provide a light horse for island defence. Newnham, minister of St. Lawrence, who took his degree at Oxford in 1658, and was ejected from the living in 1662 for nonconformity, was a younger son of Thomas Newnham, the owner of the Whitwell and Gotten estates. He was born at Gotten in 1631, died and was buried in Whitwell church in 1689. His father survived, and, by a partition deed, is shown to have left several grandchildren to inherit. A grandchild, son of the minister, attained his majority in 1704.

Caleb Cooper, a relative of the Hardleys, was for many years overseer for the Bonchurch parish. He is interred in the Whitwell churchyard; the memorial stone has the date 1803 upon it.

[1] W., *Hist. I. W.*, p. 109.

Lay Subsidy Rolls.

A scrutiny of these rolls is interesting, since it gives a list of the resident householders at different periods. In 1327 a grant of the twentieth part of the value of all moveable goods was made. Fuller particulars of the subsidy have been already given. The assessments for Whitwell are entered as follows :—

Subsidy Roll, 1st Edward III, 1327 (No. 173-4), Sutht. for Whitwell.

"Villata de Whitewell."

Dominus Johannes de Insula	v s̃	
Roberto Frylende	ij s̃	
Henricus atte Hale	iij s̃	
Roberto le Moul		ix d̃
Willelmo atte Forde	iiij s̃	
Willelmo atte Spanne		xviij d̃
Alano Cutle		xv d̃
Ricardo Everard	ij s̃	
Simone Cordray	xiij s̃	
Willelmo de Bagwich	iij s̃	
Willelmo le Ware	ij s̃	
Ricardo Reynold		xviij d̃
Willelmo Rolf		xij d̃
Ricardo de Twyforde	iij s̃	
Ricardo atte Dane	v s̃	
Willelmo le Url	ij s̃	vj d̃
Roberto Fus	ij s̃	
Willelmo Vdrich		xij d̃
Johannes Patyn		xv d̃
Willelmo Adekyn		ix d̃
Galfridus atte Forde clico	iiij s̃	
Willelmo Dolcoppe		xviij d̃
Summa	lxi s̃.	

Some idea of the size of the parish at this time may be gained from the list of the inhabitants who paid the tax to the treasury. The list gives twenty-two householders, and allowing five members to each family the population at this time would be over a hundred persons. There must have been many families who paid no tax, and domestic servants would not be included in the list. The highest tax was thirteen shillings, paid by Simon Cordray, and he doubtless farmed the Whitwell estate. Names of members having this family name recur in island records during three centuries. A "Peter Coudray" furnished "a man at arms for island defence," *temp.* Edward I. Dominus John de Insula, first named on the list, was lord of the manor, and, though resident at Gatcombe, possibly had a "hall" here. Richard Reynold, named in the assessments, was ancestor of the Reynolds living in the parish now. The total sum levied amounted to 61 shillings, and this, multiplied by 22, gives the present day value £67. 2s.

It will be noticed that many of the individuals in the list were named after their holdings or dwelling places; some of these can be recognised in the district after the flight of centuries, *e.g.*, Dean, Bagwich, Dolcoppe, Ford, Spanne, etc.

From another source a Register of the Abbey of Tichfield, entitled the "Rememoratorum de Tichefelde," compiled in the reign of Richard II, is given the figures relating to the taxation of the Tenth and Fifteenth, in 1334—[1]

"*Insula Vecta.*" (*inter alia.*)	Whytewelle - - - -	iiij li		ij d
	Nywetone - - - -	vi li	ij s	vij d
	Wathe & Nettlecombe - -		lxij s	viij d
	Godeshulle & Stenebᵗy - -		lxx s	

No items are given to show how these sums were made up. The subsidy was granted to the King on account of the expenses caused by the war with Scotland.

THE SUBSIDY ROLL, 173-243, 36 HENRY VIII. (1545), furnishes the names of resident parishioners two centuries later, a subsidy granted in the last Parliament of Henry VIII.

Whitwell.

Walte Elysbere - - - - - -	xiv s̃
Richard Newnam - - - - - -	xviij s̃
Elizabeth Pery - - - - - -	xl s̃
Johan Colman - - - - - -	x s̃
George Warder - - - - - -	xviij s̃
Richard Philip - - - - - -	viij s̃
Thomas Jacob - - - - - -	x s̃
Thomas Newman - - - - - -	viij s̃
Robert Jolyff - - - - - - -	xij s̃
John Pedder - - - - - - -	viij s̃
Ralph Lylford (Priest there) - - - -	viij s̃

Total £7. xiv s.

THE LAY SUBSIDY ROLL, 174-433, 39 Elizabeth (1597), mentions twelve names :—

Whitwelle and St. Lawrence.

John Jollyffe, Valentine Cole,
John Pedder, Richard Brerdynge,
and eight others.

THE SUBSIDY ROLL, 175-545, 17 Charles I (1642), gives a list of fifty-six names. The first mentioned are :—

Sir John Dingley - - - - - -	ij s̃ vj d̃
Margarett Fleming - - - - - -	x s̃

The rateable value of the parish for relief of the poor in 1650, appears to have been £838. 5*s*. 10*d*. A rate of two shillings for every ten pounds assessable value produced £8. 7*s*. 8*d*. In 1776 a poor rate of one shilling in the pound produced the sum of £78. 4*s*. 3*d*., representing a rateable value of £1,564. 6*s*. 8*d*.

The following excerpt is taken from the return of—

"Rates and Assessments made in the Isle of Wight for raising ship money and subsidies in the several parishes, *temp*. Charles 1st :—'Whitwell,' Ship Rates, £22. Last Subsidy Rate, £22. 10*s*.

Total value of parish per annum, £840."

It will be well, before concluding the description of the parish, to

[1] *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*, vol. i, p. 175.

glance at some of the more interesting features associated with the manors of Week and Stenbury, situated in the immediate vicinity. Though not strictly within the confines of the parish, the manors are associated with Whitwell and the Undercliff district in many ways.

Of Week Manor.

"Week" is a farm lying at the foot of the Down of the same name, just outside the parish boundary. It is more especially interesting from having been one of the ancient crown manors, forming a part of the "crown demesne" in the Confessor's day, and so held, together with Sandford. The following is the entry in the Domesday record:—

"Sandford cum Wica tenet Rex in dominio. Rex Edwardus tenuit. Tunc 3 hidæ. Quando vicecomes recepit, 2 hidæ et una virgata. Terra est 12 carucatæ. In dominio sunt 3 carucatæ; et 10 villani, et 3 bordarii, cum 6 carucatis. Ibi 10 servi, et 2 molini de 70 denariis; et 6 acræ prati. De herbagio, 20 solidi. Silva sine pasnagio. T.R.E. 25 libras ad pensam et arsuram. Quando Rex recepit, 20 libras, simili modo; et nunc, 20 libras ad pensam; et tamen reddit, de firma 26 libras ad pensam, et 100 denarios."

Translation.—"The King holds Sandford with Wica (Week) in demesne. King Edward held them. (There were) then 3 hides. When the sheriff received them, there were 2 hides and 1 virgate. There is land for 12 ploughs. In (the) demesne are 3 ploughs, and (there are) 10 villeins and 3 bordars with 6 ploughs. There are 10 serfs, and 2 mills worth 70 pence; and 6 acres of meadow. From the pasturage (de herbagio) (come) 20 shillings. There is wood (land) without pannage. The above manors were worth T.R.E. (tempore regis Edwardi) 25 pounds of weighed and assayed money (ad pensam et arsuram). When the King received them, they were worth 20 of the above pounds, and now they are worth 20 pounds of weighed money and yet they are farmed (reddit de firma) for 26 pounds of weighed money and 100 pence."[1]

The system of assessment in hides was of very great antiquity. "Closely connected with the question of rent is that of the coin in which the rent was paid, and the above most important entry, says Mr. Horace Round, of an Isle of Wight Manor paying 25 pounds '*ad pensam et arsuram*' a year in the days of king Edward, carries back the whole Exchequer system of weighing and assaying money to a time earlier than the Conquest."[2]

"La Week" is referred to in the general Charter of Confirmation, by William de Vernon, giving—"to the Abbot and Convent of Lyra, the tithes of the demesne of Week." There is a later reference in the Charter, *viz.*, "in la Wike, four shillings."

The later history of these two valuable manors is bound up with that of the priory of Appuldurcombe. Richard de Redvers, earl of Devon, on whom the feudal sovereignty of the Island had been conferred by Henry I, gave—before 1135—"the manor in the Island of With, which is called Wiche (Week), to the Abbey of Montebourg," a monastery he had founded in Normandy. On the suppression of the "Alien Priories" the estate passed to the convent of the Minories without Aldgate, later to the monastery of Sheen, and then to Sir James Worsley. In the will

[1] V. C. H., *The Domesday Survey*, vol. i, p. 547. [2] *Ibid.*, p. 415.

of Sir Richard Worsley, dated 1564, "the Manor of Weeke, with all the stock," is left to his wife. The property remained in the Worsley family until the dispersion of the estates in 1856.

THE MANOR AND ITS LORDS.

The manor of Whitwell appears from the earliest times to have been comprised in that of Gatcombe. The entry in the Domesday Book reads as follows :—

"Isdem Willelmus tenet Gatcombe. Tres fratres tenuerunt, in paragio, de Rege Edwardo. Tunc se defendebat pro 2 hidis, modo, pro una hida. Quisque habuit aulam. Terra est 4 carucatæ; in dominio sunt 3 carucatæ et 6 villani et 15 bordarii cum 5 carucatis. Ibi 6 servi, et molinus de 40 denariis. Ibi 26 acræ prati. Silva ad clausaram. T.R.E. et modo, valet 6 libras, cum receptum sit 100 solidos."[1]

A translation of this record is given at the commencement of the following paragraphs, the words being printed in italics :—

"*The same William (fitz Stur) holds Gatcombe. Three brothers held it, in parage, of king Edward (the Confessor).*" In parage meaning—each share in the land would be equal. The brothers were freeholders, rendering nominal service to the King.

"*It was then assessed at 2 hides; now at 1 hide.*" The reason of the assessment being reduced does not appear.

"*Each (of the brothers) had a hall.*" It may reasonably be surmised that one of these would be situated at Whitwell. In reference to this point Ballard states :—"There was some occult connection between the manor and one of the houses on the estate; that the 'hall' was what we should now call the manor house."[2] "It is further clear that a hall was necessary to the existence of a manor," and. as Professor Maitland pointed out, "is the place where the geld is demanded and paid."[3]

"*There is land for 4 ploughs. In (the) demesne are 3 ploughs.*" This gives roughly the area of land under cultivation. In demesne refers to land occupied and farmed as a home farm by the lord.

"*And 6 villeins, and 15 borderers with 5 ploughlands; also 6 servants.*"

"*A mill worth 40 pence,*" the usual appendage found associated with the Domesday vill, and the rent paid by the miller.

NOTE ON THE ILLUSTRATION.—In his guide to the Isle of Wight (1860), Canon Venables writes :—"The most interesting object in the church is a cross-legged *wooden effigy* of a knight in complete armour, under a semicircular arch on the north side of the church. This figure is of much earlier date than those in Brading Church, and deserves careful attention. The monument bears no inscription (the common people used formerly to call it St. Radegund), but from the style of the hauberk of mail and surcoat, which is of the time of Edward I, it probably represents one of the family of Estur, to whom the manor of Gatcombe (as well as those of Whitwell and Calbourne) belonged from the time of the Doomsday Survey."

[1] Warner's *Domesday Hampshire*, p. 292. [2] Ballard, *The Domesday Inquest*, p. 50.
[3] Maitland, *Domesday Book and Beyond*, p. 124.

Monument at Gatcombe, supposed to represent one of the Estur Family.

"*There are 26 acres of meadow.*" Meadow, a term to denote grassland bordered by a stream, on which hay can be grown.

"*There is wood (land) for fences,*" evidently used in common by the lord and his tenants, for firing, repairs, etc.

"*Time of king Edward (the Confessor), and is now worth 6 pounds. When received it was worth 100 shillings.*"

Soon after the Conquest this very desirable estate was included amongst the other broad lands granted by William Fitz Osbern (to whom the Isle of Wight had been given by the King) to his follower and supporter, William, son of Stur, constituting him one of the 3 tenants-in-chief or great barons of the Isle of Wight, at the time when the Domesday survey was made.

It will be readily understood that a genealogy of the "Stur" family deduced from deeds and charters of the time prior to 1280—many of the documents being undated—must necessarily be tentative, and in the absence of documentary support, too much credence must not be accorded to it.

It has been stated "That 'Stur' or 'Stir,' the father of William, was king Hardicanute's *major-domo,* or mayor of the palace, and with Ælfric, Archbishop of York, earl Godwin, and other men of distinction, had the task of digging up the body of Harold I."[1] Though the statement cannot be regarded as mythical, yet no documentary authority is adduced in support of the statement. It can be shown, on the other hand, that William, son of Stur—"*de Insula Guitti*"—was of Norman extraction, holding hereditary estates in Normandy, which estates passed to his sons at his death. It is quite possible, as suggested by Mr. Hue, that there was a "Stur" at the court of Hardicanute, the name being probably as Norse as Norman. The name, moreover, remained for centuries as one of the noblest of Swedish families. Estur is also one of the oldest family names in the Channel Islands, where the population is without any Saxon element.

A.D. 1066-1100. During this interval William Fitz Stur was in possession of twenty-one Island manors, with other estates, in the county on the mainland. He also received dues from two houses in Southampton, and was sufficiently wealthy to speculate in "farming" four royal manors, paying annually for them the then large sum of 60 pounds. The manors were Bowcombe, near Carisbrooke, Heldelie (?), Lymerston, and Shide, near Newport. The Undercliff property was limited to Whitwell. He also held the manors of Chale and Gotten, at the western extremity of the district. His other estates were grouped together at Brading and Arreton. Of the thirteen freemen holding from Edward the Confessor, two only continued in possession under the changed ownership. Eleven of the properties were in hand at the time of the survey. It is probable that William Fitz Stur was dead by 1100, leaving

[1] W. & W., *Hampshire,* vol. ii, p. 167.

issue three known sons—Hugh, Gervase and Roger, also a daughter, married to Hugh Gurnon, otherwise Vernun. The manor of Chale, with Gotten, was probably her marriage dower. These estates were enumerated in 1086 as being held by Stur :—" William, son of Stur, holds Cela (Chale), in demesne of the King." . . . " The same William holds Gadetune (Gotten)." . . . These manors, early in the 12th century, are found held by Hugh Gurnon, who founded the church at Chale, dedicated in 1114. A " Hugh Gurnon was sheriff of the Isle of Wight in the reign of Henry I."[1] A Hugh de Vernun was witness to a charter of Robert, Duke of the Normans in 1089.[2] Chale manor passed, by a later marriage, to the de Langford family. At the inquisition, taken 47, Henry III (1263), " the heirs of Richard de Langford are returned holding a Knight's fee, in Chale."[3]

The sons' names are given in a " Calendar of Documents preserved in France," the full text being as follows :—

" Abbey of Marmoutier. Tours [*temp.* Will. II]. Notification that Hugh de Insula, son of William, son of Stur [Sturi] of the Isle of Wight [Guitti], gave St. Martin of Marmoutier and his monks the tithe of the mill of Torlavilla, which he held of the count of Normandy by hereditary right, in the sight and with the consent of his brothers Rotger and Gervase, for which Ralph the prior, gave him in love a certain mule, which he gave his brother Rotger who was about to go to Rome."[4]

Torlaville is situated two miles to the eastward of Cherbourg. The date of the deed is *circa* 1100. No further documentary evidence relating to the brothers is forthcoming. It is possible that Hugh de Insula may be identified with " Hugh of Shorwell " granting land there.[5] Rotger, with Roger del Estre, a follower of Richard (1) de Redvers, " giving at his lord's solicitation the manor of Apse to the canons of Christ Church, Twynham, *circa* 1100-1107. He might be the " Rogerio de Insula " who attested the charter of king Henry I to the Abbey of Lire, apud Newenham, December, 1100.[6] Both the properties mentioned are found enumerated among the Stur holdings, in 1086. Of Gervase nothing authentic is known. It may be surmised that two other persons mentioned in the records of the time were related to the Stur family, though the connection is nowhere stated. " Robert Estur, of the Isle of Wight," whose son, William, is later a donor of the church and of lands at Thieville, in Normandy."[7] " Jordan del Estre," a trusted follower of Richard (1) de Redvers, and who attested his charter to the canons of Christ Church, and witnessed to the grant of Apse manor to the same foundation by Roger del Estre. He may have been also a donor of land, since an anniversary was kept in pious memory of " Jordan de l'Isle." By marriage, with a daughter of Fitz Azor descent, he is conjecturally supposed to be the ancestor of the powerful de Insula family located at Wodyton.

[1] *Pipe R.*, 31 Hen. I.
[2] Thos. Stapleton, *Mag. Rot. Scacc. Norm.*
[3] *T. de N.*
[4] *Cal. Doc. France*, vol. i, p. 426.
[5] W., *App.*, No. 51.
[6] W. & W., *Hampshire*, vol. iii, p. 112.
[7] *Cal. Doc. France*, vol. i, p. 135.

A.D 1100-1131. No deed or charter extant sheds any light on the disposition of the Stur estates during the interval, 1100-1131. With the forfeiture of his estates for rebellion, Roger, earl of Hereford, son of William Fitz Osbern lost the lordship of the Isle of Wight. Few deeds of importance were probably executed, and this may account for the absence of documentary evidence relating to the estates during the earlier part of the interregnum. "Great changes in the shape of confiscations of land," according to Hillier, "occurred at this time. Of the names mentioned in Domesday that of Stur (*de Estur*) only is afterwards recognised."[2]

It seems inferentially probable that the "William, son of Stur," who witnessed the important foundation charter of Quarr Abbey, in 1131, was seised of the Island estates during these years. The attestation to this charter is the only documentary evidence of his existence that has been traced.

A.D. 1131-1156. Soon after founding Quarr Abbey, Baldwin (1) de Redvers espoused the cause of the empress Maud against king Stephen, and was "disseised and expelled from hence (*i.e.*, the Isle of Wight) for twenty years."[3] A crown official was placed in charge of the Island, and it is only at the close of the interregnum that evidence can be adduced of a son—"*Willelmo filio Stur*"—being seised of the Stur estates.

A.D. 1156-1189. A "WILL'O FILIO STUR," witnesses various charters—

(*a*) The "Carta Fundationis" of Richard (2) de Redvers, earl of Devon,—*circa* 1156.[4]

(*b*) Hugo de Witville's charter, granting land to Quarr,—*circa* 1158.[5]

(*c*) The Newport charter, between 1174–1184.[6]

(*d*) The "Wellow" charter, of William de Vernon, between 1184–89.[7]

(This deed is attested jointly with his son—"*Willelmo filio Stur et Willielmo filio ejus.*" their signatures following that of countess Mabilia, wife of the grantor.)

(*e*) "A charter whereby William de Redvers, earl of Devon, in frank almoin, granted to the canons of Christchurch, Twynham, the gifts of which Baldwin his father and Richard his brother made to them. . . Witnessed to by William son of Stur, Walter de Insula and William his brother, Roger de Aula and Thomas, his son."[8]

A.D. 1189-1200. WILLIAM FITZ STUR, the son, attests other charters.

(*a*) A second de Vernon deed—granting two islands near Christ Church to Quarr Abbey. This charter was certainly executed before 1199.[9]

(*b*) A charter of the earl of Devon to the abbey of Montebourg—*circa* 1196.[10]

(*c*) Witnessed (jointly with his son), Walter de Insula's charter granting land on St. Boniface Down to Quarr.[11]

The date of execution of this deed is disputed, being indefinitely assigned to a period between 1200 and 1217. A scrutiny of the witnesses

[1] *Hants*, pp. 173–176.
[2] Hillier, *Hist. & Antiqt. of I. W.*, p. 70.
[3] *Add. MSS.*, No. 24,789 (Br. Mus.).
[4] W., *App.*, No. 51.
[5] *Ibid.*, No. 59.
[6] Hillier, *Hist. & Antiqt. of I. W.*, pt. ii, p. 73.
[7] W., *App.*, No. 65.
[8] *Insp. & Conf. of Ch. R.*, 7 Edw. II.
[9] W., *App.*, No. 66.
[10] *Misc. Doc. Seine Inférieure*, p. 321.
[11] W., *App.*, No. 64.

attesting this and other charters of the time leads Mr. Hue to the conclusion that the date is earlier than 1200, possibly 1196.

A.D. 1200-1224. "WILLELMO FILIO EJUS," at his father's demise, succeeded to the estates, though the date of his accession is not forthcoming. He is possibly the "Will'o Estour," who, prior to 1200, gave a charter to Christ Church, the deed being witnessed to by earl William de Vernon and William his son.[1] No documentary evidence reveals the date of William de Estur's death. At the close of the period, 8 Henry III, "Baldewini fil Esturi"—inferentially a brother—is found in possession of the Gatcombe estates.

"*De terra de Gatecomb*—Commisit supra dicto [Waleramo] dominus Rex totam terram quæ fuit Baldwini filii Esturi, in Gatecumb cujus, custodia in manum domini Regis est. . . . Mandatum est Vicecomiti Suth'ton quod de terra quod fuit predicti Baldewini in Gatecumb cum filia et herede ipsius eundem Waleramum plenam seisinam habere faciat. *Teste Rege apud Bristoll,* xij *die Martii.*"[2]

The purport being an order to the sheriff to take charge of the lands and the custody of the daughter and heir of Baldwin, of Gatcombe. Waleramo [*the Teuton*], the sheriff, was a son of Theodore, valet to king John, and held the villa of Ringwood. He had charge of the Isle of Wight and of the lands appertaining to the lordship of the Island, from the 2nd to the 8th Henry III. On January 6th, 1225, he had charge of the bailiwick of the Isle of Wight. He was ordered, by writ, in February, 1226, "to reckon 60 marks for two years' stipend due to him as Warden of Carisbrooke Castle."[3]

A.D. 1224-1280. MATILDA DE ESTUR, daughter and heiress of Baldwin de Estur, was under age when her father died, and the wardship was granted to Geoffrey de Insula, of Wodyton, whose son, Walter, she eventually married. Few details of her husband are recorded. He was a knight, by 1253, when, in conjunction with his wife, he contested the right of presentation to the church at Brading—"dominum Walterum de Insula, militem, et Matildam uxorem ejusdem."[4] Sir Walter predeceased his wife, being dead by 1263, as in that year lady Matilda's name appears in the list of tenants holding *in capite* of the Castle (or honour) of Caresbrok :—

"domina Matill' de Gatecumbe tenet quinque feoda in capite in domenico domino castri de Karesbrok, etc."

The return is an excerpt from a certified copy of the inquisition, taken 47 Henry III (1263), after the death of Baldwin, the last heir male of the de Redvers line.[5]

Lady Matilda was one of six plaintiffs who contested the claim made by Isabella de Fortibus, in *re,* "wreck of the sea."[6]

[1] Hillier, *Hist. & Antiqt. of I. W.*, pt. ii, p. 77.
[2] Roberts, *Exc. e. Rot. Finium*, vol. i, p. 112.
[3] W. & W., *Hampshire*, vol. iii, p. 143.
[4] P. Stone, *Archit. Antiqt. I. W.*, vol. i, p. 198.
[5] *Add. MS.*, No. 24,789, p. 201 (Br. Mus.).
[6] *Placita Corona. co. Suht't.*, 8 Edw. I.

An inquiry was held, 8 Edward I (1280), to ascertain the number of Knights' fees belonging to the Castle of Caresbrok. In the return—

> "Lady Matilda le Estour, lady of Gatcomb, holds of the same countess (Isabella de Fortibus) in capite v. fees. Whence the same holds in demesne the manors of Gatcomb, Whitewell and Caulbourne, which William de Estour, son and heir of the same, holds of her gift."[1]

She had issue by her marriage three sons—William, eldest son and heir; Geoffrey, of Merston, who inherited at his brother's death as the nearest heir; and John de Insula, co-founder of Barton Oratory in 1275. On All Saints' Day, 10 Edward I. (1281), "John de Insula, rector of the church of Schaudeflet" witnessed a writing whereby Isabella de Fortibus granted (*inter alia*) her whole manor of Craft . . . . to Agnes de Monceaus at a rent of £80."[2] He was living four years later when "Protection (*inter alia*) was granted to John de Insula, parson of the church of Arretone."[3]

The date of lady Matilda's death is not recorded.

A.D. 1280-1292. SIR WILLIAM DE ESTUR, son and heir, was next in possession. He was born by 1240, and a knight soon after 1262-3, when he attested various deeds.

(*a*) As 'Will's Estur, militis'—a charter of Isabella de Fortibus, dated at Caresbroke, at the feast of the Purification, 1272, granting land in Freshwater to the Canons of Christ Church.[4]

(*b*) As "William Estur, Knt," a grant of a charter to the burghers of Newport—*circa* July 1262.[5]

(*c*) A charter to the abbot of Quarrera, dated at Norwich, on November 29th, 7 Edward I (1279), is witnessed to by "Will' de Stur, mil."[4]

He married Agnes (whose surname has not been traced), having no issue by her. This fact, contrary to a generally received opinion, is set forth in a deed, the text being given *in extenso* :—

"Quedam Matilda de Gadecombe dedit dicto Willielmo le Estur filio et hæredo suo et dictæ Agneti in libero maritagio manerium de Kauleborne tenendum sibi et hæredibus de corpore eorum procreatis de prædicta Matilda . . . . Prædictum manerium debet reverti ad Baldwinum filium et hæredem Galfridi de Insula fratris et hæredis prædicti Willelmi le Estur si quod idem Willielmus et Agnes prædicti obierunt sine hæredibus de corpore eorum procreatis."[6]

Sir William died in 1292, the writ *"ad diem suum clausit extremum,"* being issued on November 12th.

"De terris capiendis in manum Regis.

Quia Willelmus de Esturs qui de Rege tenuit in capite, etc. Mandatum est Malculino de Harlegh, esceatori ultra Trentam quod omnes terras et tenementa de quibus idem Willelmus fuit seisitus, etc. . . . sine dilacione capiat. . . . *Teste Rex apud Berewik, xij die Novembris."*[7]

[1] *T. de N.*
[2] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 1272—1304, p. 53.
[3] *Ibid.*, p. 267.
[4] *Cal. Ch. R.*, 1263—1293, vol. iii.
[5] Albin's *Hist. I. W.*, p. 301.
[6] Roberts, *Calend. Genealogic.*, vol. ii, p. 568.
[7] *Exc. e. Rot. Finium*, 20 Edw. I, m. 2.

PART I.

SCHEME SHOWING A CONJECTURAL DESCENT OF THE "DE ESTUR" FAMILY. (1066–1224.)

William, son of Stur—"de Insula Guitti"—came from Normandy to the Isle of Wight in 1066, probably then of mature age. In 1086 holds 21 manors (Domesday Book). No recorded evidence of existence later. Probably dead by or before 1100, leaving issue three named sons and a daughter.

- 1100–31. William, son of Stur. Conjecturally regarded as holding Island estates, after his father's demise, from 1109–1131. A witness to foundation ch. Quarr Abbey, 1131.
  - 1156–89. William, son of Stur, attests charters between 1156–1184. Is the "Willielmus filius Stur," who witnesses. 1184–1189, the Wellow ch. with his son.
    - 1189–1200. William, son of Stur, the "Willielmus filius ejus" of ch. No. 65, to Quarr Abbey. Attests ch. between 1184 & 1200. Is the "Willielmus filius Stur" of ch. No. 64, who attests with his son jointly. = ...
      - 1200–24. William, son of Stur, the "Willielmus filius ejus" of ch. No. 64, of Walter de Insula, to Quarr Abbey. A brother of Baldwin de Estur, died leaving no issue.
      - Baldwin de Estur, ob. 1224, leaving a daughter, heiress to the Stur estates. = ...
        - Lady Matilda de Estur, of Gatcomb, etc.
- Hugh, "of the Isle," son of Stur, gives tithe of mill, etc., c. 1100, his brothers Gervase and Rodger assenting thereto. Query — Hugh of Shorwell, ch. No. 53.
- Gervase, Consents to his brother's gift.
- Roger—probably the Roger del Estre, who gives Apse manor to Christchurch, c. 1101–1107. A follower of Rich. de Redvers, earl of Devon.
- Daughter. Has manor of Chale as dower.
  - Hugh Gurnon, in possession of Chale early 12th century.
- Robert Estur, "of the Isle of Wight." (Estates not mentioned.) Pipe Rolls, 31 Henry I. His son, William, gives lands, etc., at Thieville, 1172.
- Jordan del Estre, a witness to Roger del Estre's grant of Apse manor, 1101–7, and a donor of land to Christchurch. Anniversary observed in "pious memory" of Jordan de l'Isle. Possibly, by marriage with a dr. of Fitz Azor parentage, the ancestor of the De Insula family, of Wodyton, etc.

Actual relationship to Stur family not established.

(Continued on page 240.)

The inquisition taken upon his death is entered as follows :—

" 20 Edward I. *Will'us De Estur.*

Heleseye maner' extent; Gatecombe maner' extent; Whytewall maner' extent; Caulbourn maner' extent; Hulsye terr.' Midlington cur.'; Suth'ton."[1]

A later, probably a supplementary return, was issued :—

" 22 Edward I—5a *Will'us Lestur.*

Atebregge, una carucata terræ; Arfeld iiijxx acras; Wolferton et Stoureswath, una carucata; Le Hale, un' acr'. Honningford, 40 acr'. Westbroke, 20 acr'. Netelston, 40 acr'. Alfrethston; Gatcome ecclia. Newenham, 30 acr'. Suth't. Insula Vecta."[1]

His wife survived him, and is named an executor of his will, in conjunction with Henry de Cumpton :—

" Agnes quæ fuit uxor Will'i Estur et Henricus de Cumpton executores testi Will'i Estur dant dimidium marcam. . . ."[2]

On a Close Roll, for the year 1292, there is entered an :—

" Order to . . . escheator to cause dower to be assigned to Agnes, late the wife of William Lestur, tenant in chief, upon her taking oath not to marry without the King's licence."[3]

And two years later, in 1294, a further order on the same Rolls :—

The dower to be " from the Knights' fees that belonged to William in the presence of William's heir, if he wish to be present."[4]

Dying in 1299, the Royal mandate to take possession of the lands is dated at Tynemouth on the 1st of December :—

" *De terris capiendis in manum Regis.*

Quia Agnes que fuit uxor Will'i Le Escur que de Rege tenuit." . . .[5]

The inquisition following was taken, 27 Edward I, her age being 92 years :—

" *Agnes uxor Will'i le Estur.*

Kauleborne maner' extent. Gatecome cur' sect; Wytewell maner' extent ampla. Sutht'."[6]

A.D. 1293-1294. GEOFFREY DE INSULA, as brother and heir, succeeded :

" Galfridus de Insula, frater praedicti Willelmi, est proximus haeres ejusdem Willelmi et est plenae ætatis."[7]

Geoffrey did homage, January the 14th, 1293, for the estates he had inherited as brother and nearest heir. Since considerable doubt exists in regard to his succession, the text of the deed is given in full from the Fine Rolls :—

" *Galf'ro de Insula—De homagio capto Rege.*

Rex cepit homagium Galfridi de Insula, fratris et heredis Willi de Esturs defuncti, de omnibus terris et tenementis quæ idem Willelmus, frater suus, tenuit de Rege in capite die quo obiit, et ei terras illas et tenementa Rex reddidit. Et ideo mandatum est Malculino de Harleye, esceatori ultra Trentam, quod, accepta securitate a præfato Galfrido. . . de omnibus terris et tenementis prædictis, et de quibus prædictus Willelmus fuit seisitus in dominico suo ut de feodo in balliva sua die quo obiit, et quæ occasione mortis ejusdem capta sunt

[1] *Cal. Inq. p. m.*, vol. i, p. 3 (Rec. Com., publ. *c.* 1812).
[2] *Exc. e. Rot. Finium*, 21 Edw. I, m. 13.
[3] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1288—1296.
[4] *Ibid.*
[5] *Exc. e. Rot. Finium*, 27 Edw. I, m. 25.
[6] *Cal. Inq. p. m.*, vol. i, p. 3.
[7] Roberts, *Calend. Genealog.*, vol. i, p. 437.

in manum Regis, plenam seisinam habere faciat, salvo jure cujuslibet. Teste Rege apud Merington, xiiij die Jan."[1]

Translation.—The King has received the homage of Geoffrey, brother and heir, of William de Estur, deceased, for all the lands and tenements which the said William, his brother, held of the King in chief on the day that he died; and the King has restored to him those lands and tenements. And it is commanded to Malcolm de Harleye, escheator beyond the Trent, that he receives security from the aforesaid Geoffrey, and that he should give, in the aforesaid manner, to the said Geoffrey, full seisin of the aforesaid lands and tenements which the said William was seized in his demesne as of the fee, in his bailiwick, on the day that he died, and which were taken into the King's hands by reason of his death. Witnessed by the King, at Merington, on the 14th day of January.

Geoffrey de Insula witnessed two charters :—

(*a*) A deed, "dated at Karesbrooke, 19 Kalends of January, 1292, whereby Isabella de Fortibus . . . gave the Canons of Christ Church for their food the tithe of all rabbits . . . in her manor of Thornle in the Isle of Wight."[2]

(*b*) A charter granted by the countess Isabella to the borough of Newport.[3]

Geoffrey's tenure of the Stur estates was a brief one, since he died in the autumn of 1293. The writ to the escheator to take charge being issued on October 30th, 21 Edward I, couched in the usual terms :—

"Quia Galfridus de Insula qui de Rege tenuit in capite, diem clausit extremum ut Rex accepit. Mandatum est, etc." . . .[4]

Translation.—"Whereas Geoffrey de Insula, who held of us in chief has closed his last day as the King has understood. It is ordered that Malcolm de Harley, escheator . . . that all the lands, etc."

Witnessed by the King at Westminster, Oct. 30th.

In response to the writ, the inquisition was held on November 16th :

"*Galf'rus de Insula.*

Gatecome maner' extent : Kingeswell terr.', etc. Merston pertin' maner' de Gatecombe—Sutht'."[5]

He married Isolda de Albemarlia, as set forth in the following excerpt :—

"Dictus Galfridus de Insula et Isolda de Albemarlia uxor ejus conjunctim feoffati videlicet pro Galfrido et heredibus suis et pro Isolda quamdiu vixerit tenuerunt in Kyngeswell unum messuagium, etc."[6]

A.D. 1294-1307. BALDWIN DE INSULA, son and heir of Geoffrey, succeeded, as set forth in the following return from the inquisition :—

"Baldwinus de Insula filius dicti Galfridi propinquior hæres ejus est, et fuit ad festum Sancti Johannis Baptistæ proximo praeteritum ætatis viginti trium annorum."[7]

He did homage for the estates early in December, 1294 :—

"22 Edward I.

Rex cepit homagium Baldewini de Insula, filii et heredis Galfridi de Insula de comitatu Suthamptoniæ defuncti de omnibus terris et tenementis quæ idem Galfridus patris suis tenuit de Rege in capite, die quo obiit.

Teste Rege apud Westmonasterium, secundo die Dec'ris."[8]

[1] *Exc. e. Rot. Finium*, 21 Edw. I, m. 26.
[2] *Cal. Ch. R.*, vol. iii, No. 6.
[3] W., *App.*, No. 21.
[4] *Exc. e. Rot. Finium*, 21 Edw. I, m. 3.
[5] Chas. Roberts, *Calend. Genealogic.*, publ. 1865.
[6] & [7] *Ibid.*, vol. i, No. 32.
[8] *Exc. e. Rot. Finium*, 22 Edw. I, m. 22 (Rec. Off.).

The purport being that :—

"Baldwin de Insula, son of the said Geoffrey, is the next heir and was aged twenty-three years at the feast of St. John the Baptist next following." "The King has taken the homage of Baldwin . . . . for the lands, etc., which the same Geoffrey, his father held. . . . ."

On the death of Agnes, relict of Sir William de Estur, in 1299, there in an order entered in the Close Roll, 28th February, to the escheator, Walter of Gloucester :—

"Not to intermeddle with the manors of Kauleburn and Whitwell, and to deliver them to Baldwin, son and heir of Geoffrey de Insula, if they have been taken into the King's hands solely by reason of the death of Agnes, late the wife of William le Estur, as it appears to the King by inspection of the Rolls of Chancery that Baldwin did homage to him for all the lands that his father held at his death of the King in chief, and it is found, by an inquisition, by the escheator, concerning the lands that belonged to Agnes, that she held, at her death, the manor of Kauleburn in free marriage and the manor of Whitwell, in dower, of Baldwin's inheritance, and that they ought to revert to Baldwin, by right of inheritance, as Geoffrey's son and heir after her death."[1]

A month later, in the same Rolls, after a recital of the last entry, there is added :—

"The King wishing to show Baldwin special favour, orders the escheator to deliver to him the issues received from the manor of Whytewell from the time when it was taken into the King's hands."

He married Joan (surname unknown), and died 1307, leaving an only son to inherit.

The writ to the escheator to take charge of the estates was issued on the 22nd of August :—

"1 Edward 2nd.

"*De terris capiendis,* etc. Quia Baldewynus de Insula qui de Rege tenuit in capite, diem clausit, extremum, etc., Mandatum est," etc.[2]

The inquisition was held on the 14th of the following month at Southampton, and the return by the jurors reads as follows :—

"*Baldwin de Insula.*"

Gatecombe.—The manor (extent given) held of the King in chief, by service of 1 Knight's fee as of the castle of Karesbrouk, now in the King's hands.

Whytewelle.—The manor (extent given) held of the King in chief (by service of ½ Knight's fee as of the castle, etc.

Caulbourn.—The manor (extent given) held by service of a Knight's fee, etc."

"John, his son, aged 4, on the feast of the Purification last is his next heir."[3]

The following order entered on the Close Rolls has reference to his wife's dower .—

1307. Oct. 15. Norhants. "To Walter de Gloucestre, escheator, etc. Order to deliver to Joan, late the wife of Baldwin de Insula, tenant in chief, the manor of Whitewell of the yearly value of £11. 18*s.* 9*d.*, ten acres of underwood (*sub-boscus*) in the manor of Caulburn, of the yearly value of 4 shillings, and 42*s.* 2*d.* of yearly rent, to be received by the hands of seven free tenants of the same manor of Caulburn ; which the King has assigned

[1] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1296—1302.
[2] *Exc. e. Rot. Finium*, 1 Edw. II, m. 17.
[3] *Cal. Inq. Rec. Com. Publ.*, 1904.

to her as dower, upon condition that she render to Robert de Haustede, the younger,—to whom the King has granted the custody of the lands of Baldwin during the minority of the heir, the yearly sum of 23 pence which sum represents the excess of her dower according to the extent."[1]

A further entry is made, two years later :—

1309. March 9. Langley. "Grant to Roger Sandan of the marriage of Joan, late the wife of Baldewyn de Insula, or, of any forfeiture incurred by marrying without licence."[2]

A.D. 1307-1337. SIR JOHN DE LISLE, of Gatcombe, Knight, son and heir, was a minor aged four years when his father died :—

"Johannes de Insula filius Baldewini de Insula defuncti, est ejus haeres propinquior et fuit de ætate quatuor annorum in festo Purificationis Beatæ Mariæ anno regni Regis Edwardi."[3]

The following grant is entered on the Patent Rolls :—

1307. Sept. 6. Knaresboro'. "Grant to Robert de Chorleton, yeoman, of the marriage without disparagement of the son and heir of Baldwin de Insula, deceased tenant in chief," etc.[4]

A further notice appears in the same Rolls :—

1307. Sept. 11. Knaresboro'. "Grant to Robert de Haustede, the younger, of the custody of the lands of Baldwin de Insula, deceased, during the minority of his son and heir."[4]

A further grant is made :—

1307. Nov. 21. Langley. "of the fees, advowsons and lands held in dower by Joan, late the wife, etc., if the same fall in during that period" (*id est*, if she died during the minority of her son).[5]

A Charter Roll, 2 Edward II, refers to a grant of Free Warren :—

1308. Nov. 15. "Grant at the instance of Robert de Haustede, the younger, to John de Insula, son and heir of Baldwin—who is a minor and the King's ward—and his heirs, of free warren in all their demesne lands in Gatecombe, Caulborne, and Whytewell in the Isle of Wight."[6]

The terms of the grant are given in the following excerpt :—

"ELIZABETH, by the Grace of God, of England, France and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, etc. To all to whom these Presents Letters shall come—Greeting. We have seen the Charter of the Lord Edward the Second, late King of England, our Progenitor, made to one Robert de Haustede, the younger, and enrolled in the Rolls of the Chancery, within our Tower of London, in these Words :—

"EDWARD, by the Grace of God, King of England, Lord of Ireland and Duke of Aquitaine : To the Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Priors, Earls, Barons, Justices, Reeves, Ministers and all his Bailiffs and faithful men—Greeting. Know ye, that We, at the Instance of our beloved and faithful Robert de Haustede, the Younger, Have granted and by this our Charter confirmed to John Lisle, son and Heir of Baldwin Lisle, deceased, being within age and in our Custody, that he and his Heirs for ever have Free Warren in all their Demesne Lands in Southampton, so that no one may enter the same lands to chase therein or to take anything that to Warren may appertain, without the Licence and Will of the same John or his Heirs upon Forfeiture to us of Ten Pounds, wherefore We will and firmly command for Us and our Heirs, that the

[1] *Cal. Cl. R.*, Edw. II, 1307—1313.
[2] *Cal. Pat. R.*, Edw. II, 1307—1313.
[3] *Dep. K. Pub. Rec.*, 32 Rep., p. 244.
[4] *Cal. Pat. R.*, Edw. II, 1307—1313.
[5] *Ibid.*
[6] *Cal. Ch. R.*, 2 Edw. II.

aforesaid John and his heirs for ever have Free Warren in all their Demesne Lands aforesaid.

"These being Witnesses—

"The Venerable Fathers R. archbishop of Canterbury, Primate.
"J. Lincoln and R. London, Bishops.
"Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester.
"Humphrey de Bohun, earl of Hereford, etc., etc."

The grant of free warren appears to have excited feelings of jealousy, and was followed by local disturbance. Entered on Patent Rolls is a—

1309. March 2. Westminster. "Commission of Oyer and Terminer to John de Foxle, and John de Batesford, on complaint by Robert de Haustede, the younger, that Ralph de Gorges and other persons forcibly entered the manor of Gatecumbe, in the Isle of Wight; the custody of which had been granted to him during the minority of the heirs of Baldewyn de Insula, wrecked the doors of the houses, carried away his goods and hay, took the rabbits in the several woods and garden of the manor and felled the trees."[1]

Six months later, on a Close Roll, is an entry that :—

1309. Sept. 9. "Walter Fynamour came before the King on Tuesday next after the Nativity of the Virgin, and sought to replevy to John, son of Baldwin de Insula, the land of the said John, in Gatecumbe, Whitewell, and Caulburne taken into the King's hands, for the default that Robert de Haustede, guardian of the land and heir aforesaid made before the justices of the bench. This is signified to the Justices."[2]

John de Insula attained his majority in September, 1324, but no reference to the fact is entered until February 17th, 1329 :—

1329. Feb. 17. "To Simon de Bereford, escheator. . . . Order not to distrain John de Insula for his homage and fealty for the lands that he holds of the King, as the King has taken his homage and fealty."[3]

A later order of November 30th, 1330, couched in similar terms, is issued to Robert Selyman, the escheator, etc., with the added words "son of Baldwin de Insula Vecta."[4]

In the same Rolls mention is made of his being married :—

1329. May 8. "To Simon de Bereford, escheator, etc. Order not to intermeddle further with a moiety of the manor of Strete, co. Kent, and to restore the issues thereof, as the King, at the suit of John de Insula and Joan, his wife . . . ."[5]

He was knighted by 7 Edward III (1334). His name as 'Joh'is de Insula, mil," is entered as a juror in the inquisition taken at Newport in that year.[6]

On the Patent Rolls, for the year 1331, is the following excerpt :—

1331. March 22. "Commission of Oyer and Terminer to John de Insula and others, on complaint by William de Monte Acuto, that Thomas de Folkerby, parson of the church of Caulburn, William Alfred, and others, at Sweyneston, Isle of Wight, felled his trees, hunted in his free warren and carried away trees, hares, and rabbits."[7]

[1] *Cal. Pat. R.*, Edw. II, 1307—1313.
[2] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1307—1313.
[3] *Ibid.*, 1327—1330.
[4] *Ibid.*, 1330—1333.
[5] *Ibid.*, 1327—1330.
[6] W., *App.*, No. 7.
[7] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 1330—1334.

Entered on the same Rolls, four years later, is a notice :—

1335. Jan. 26. "Appointed to see that Knights' and others are duly furnished with arms and to array them for defence of the realm—Bartholomew de Insula, John del Isle, of Gatecumbe, and John de Ticheburn."[1]

A month later is entered the following, possibly referring to him, or to a Lisle of Sherburn :—

1335. Feb. 26. "John de Insula, going to the duchy of Aquitaine on the King's service has letters nominating Hasculph de Whitewell, and Edmund de Assheby, his attorneys."[1]

Sir John died, 11 Edward III.[2] The usual order to take possession is forwarded to the escheator :—

"Will'o Trussel, escaetori citra Trentam, et de terris que fuerint Joh'is de Insula, de Gatecoumbe."[3]

The custody of the infant son and heir was granted to the Archbishop of Canterbury :—

"11 Edward III (1337).

Rex concessit Joh'i archiepō Cantuar' tocius Angli' primati custodiam omnes terras et tenementa cum pertinenciis que fuerint Joh'is de Insula, de Gatecumbe, defuncti, . . . Habendum uniacum feodis militum, etc., usque ad legitimam aetatem heredis," etc.[4]

A somewhat similar notice is entered on the Patent Rolls :—

1337. Nov. 5. Thame. "Grant to John, Archbishop of Canterbury, who has satisfied the King for what pertains to him for the custody and marriage of the heir of John de Insula of Gatecoumbe lately granted to the Archbishop by letters patent, and has, by his order, paid that money for the furtherance of certain business that he shall retain the custody, with the Knight's fees, the advowsons of churches and other appurtenances during the minority of the heir and the marriage of the heir . . . without rendering anything. Given at Thame, Nov. 5, 1337."[5]

Under the same date an acknowledgment of the debt appears on a Close Roll in the following terms :—

1337. Nov. 5. "Joan, late the wife of John de Insula, of Gatecoumbe and John de Glamorgan, John de Kyngeston, John de Heyno, Knights, acknowledge that they owe to John, Archbishop of Canterbury, 800 marks to be levied . . . co. Southampton.

Master John de Langetoft, clerk, received the acknowledgment by writ, dedimus potestatem, which is on the files this year.

Cancelled on payment."[6]

An order referring to the widow's dower is entered on the same Rolls :—

1338. March 12. "To William Trussel, escheator, etc. Order to deliver and assign the manors of Whitewell and Cawelbourn, co. Southampton, and 114*s.* 5¼*d.* yearly rent in the manor of Gatecoumbe to Joan, late the wife of John de Insula de Gatecoumbe, as her dower, upon her taking oath that she will not marry without the King's consent, as the King has assigned to her with the assent of John, Archbishop of Canterbury, to whom he committed the custody of John's lands to hold until the heir should come of age, under a certain ferm; the following lands to wit :—the manor of Whitewell, extended at £36. 10*s.* 5½*d.* yearly; the manor of Cawelbourn, extended at £15. 11*s.* 4½*d.* yearly and the said rent."

[1] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 1334—1338.
[2] *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, No. 55, vol. ii, p. 79 (Rec. Com.).
[3] *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.*, vol. ii, p. 117 (Rec. Com.).
[4] *Ibid.*, p. 116.
[5] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 38 Edw. III, 1334.
[6] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1337—1339.

Two years later the widow re-married, as shown by the following excerpt :—

1340. Sept. 5. Andover. "Pardon to Henry Romyn and Joan, late the wife of John del Isle, of Gatecoumbe, tenant in chief for intermarrying without licence."[1]

Ten years later, 23 Edward III, their deaths are recorded :—

"*Joh'a uxor Henr' de Romeyn*"—inq. p. m.
Lurdyngton maner' (and others in Sussex).

"*Henricus Romyn*"—inq. p. m.
De la Wode maner' cum membr' de la Mere.
Wellesworthe, 105 acr' terr', etc. (and lands in Sussex). Sutht'."[2]

A.D. 1337-1349. JOHN (2) DE LISLE, of Gatcombe, son and heir, was next in possession, of whom little is recorded. His name appears in the Lay Subsidy Roll, 21 Edward III (1346), "Aid for knighting the king's son."

"[Johannes del Isle] et Henrico Romyn tenent in Gatcombe, Whitewell et Caulbourn ij f' m' manerii que fuerint Baldwini de Insula."

He married Joan, daughter of Sir John de Bohun, knight, of Midhurst, having issue by her a son and two daughters. Dying in 1349, the inquisition p.m. is given by the jurors[3] :—

"23 Edw. III—'*Joh'es de Insula de Gatecoumbe.*'
Gatecombe in Insula Vecta maner' ut de castro de Caresbrok.
Neuport fect' cur', etc. Whitewell maner', Caulbourne maner."[4]

The assignment of the wife's dower is recorded as follows :—

23 Edw. III.—"*Assignatio dotis Johannæ quæ fuit uxor Joh'is del Isle*—
Gatecombe maner' terr' et ten' et ecclia'; Pideford piscar'.
Chesthull maner' terr' et ten'. Insula Vecta."[5]

In the Close Rolls the enrolment of the assignment of dower to Joan, late the wife of John del Isle, of Gatecombe, made by William de Ryngebourn, the escheator in the Isle of Wight, in the presence of Henry de Greystok, steward of the King's chamber, on September 24th, 1349, is entered at length.[6] The custody of the manors of Lordyngton and of Compton, with other estates in Sussex, were made over to her :—

"Rex commisit Johanne que fuit uxor Johannis de Insula, defuncti, custodiam manerios de Lordyngton et Compton cum pertinenciis in comitatu Sussex, etc., habendum usque ad legitimam ætatem heredis reddedendo inde per annum pro manerio de Lordyngton decem libras et pro manerio de Compton quadriginta solidos una cum sexagingta solidos annuis de supplusagio manerii de Helesæ," etc.[7]

Connected therewith is entered on the Patent Rolls a notice :—

1352. Feb. 14. "Grant at the request of Guy de Bryan, to Joan late the wife of John del Isle of Gatcombe, who holds at farm of the King the manor of Lurdington for £10 to be rendered into the King's wardrobe yearly, that she shall hold the manor without rendering anything in recompense of the sustenance of John, son and heir of the said John, a minor, whose marriage pertains to the King, while the heir stays in her keeping unmarried."[8]

[1] *Cal. Pat. R.*, Edw. III, 1340—1343.
[2] *Cal. Inq. p. m.*, vol. ii, p. 148.
[3] *Ibid.*
[4] *Inq. p. m. Rec. Com. Publ.*, *c.* 1812, p. 446.
[5] *Ibid.*, p. 146.
[6] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1349—1354, p. 142.
[7] *Abbrev. Rot. Origin.*, vol. ii, p. 202.
[8] *Cal. Pat. R.*, Edw. III, 1350—1354.

PEDIGREE OF THE "DE ESTUR" FAMILY.

(Continued from page 232.)

- Lady Matilda de Estur, dr. and h. of Baldwin de Estur, living 1280. = Walter, son of Geoffrey de Insula, of Wodyton, dead by 1263.
  - William le Estur, Knt., son and h., ob. 1292 (*Inq. p. m.*, 20 Edw. I). = Agnes, ob. 1299 (*Inq. p. m.*, 27 Edw. I).
  - Geoffrey de Insula, h. to his brother's estates, ob. 1293 (*Inq. p. m.*, 22 Edw. I). = Isolda de Albemarlia.
    - Baldwin de Insula, son and h. of Geoffrey, did homage 22 Edw. I, ob. 1307 (*Inq. p. m.*, 1 Edw. II). = Joan = Sir Robert de Haustede ?
      - Sir John de Lisle, Knt., of Gatcombe, son and h., age 4 years 1307, ob. 1337 (*Inq. p. m.*, 11 Edw. III). = Joan, ob. 1350 (*Inq. p. m.*, 23 Edw. III). = (2) Henry Romyn, ob. 1350 (*Inq. p. m.*, 23 Edw. III).
        - John (2) de Lisle, son and h. of Gatcombe, a minor 1337, ob. c. 1349 (*Inq. p. m.*, 22 Edw. III). = Joan, dr. of Sir John Bohun, Knt., of Midhurst, living 1356.
          - John (3) de Lisle, of Gatcombe, son and heir, born 6 Nov. 1342, d. s. p. 1369 (*Inq. p. m.*, 43 Edw. III).
          - Elizabeth, sister and co-heiress living 1399. = John Bramshott, living 1399.
            - a quo the "Bramshotts," of Gatcombe.
          - Eva, sister and co-heiress. = John Burford.
        - Laurence Lisle, living 1372, probably dead by, or before 1388. = Isabel, living 1399.
          - Thomas de Lisle, of Gatcombe, son and heir, minor in Nov. 1393, dead 1428. = ...
            - John Lisle, of Calbourne, etc. held a moiety of Gatcombe jointly with Will. Bramshott, 1428–31.

A.D. 1349-1369. JOHN (3) DE LISLE, of Gatcombe, son and heir, was under age when his father died. The proof of age was taken at Midhurst, on the morrow of St. Leonard, 37 Edward III :—

"The deponents say he was born at Le Coudrey in the parish of Easeburn and baptised in the church of St. Mary there on the day of St. Leonard, Nov. 6th, twenty-one years ago"[1]

Among other proofs of age lately discovered upon the Files of the "Chancery in the Tower" is the following entry confirmatory of the above :—

"Insula—John de—son and heir of John de Insula de Gatecombe was 21 years of age on the day of St. Leonard the Abbot, was born at Coudray and baptised the aforesaid day in the 16th year of the King's reign—37 Edward III."[2]

Very little information about him is recorded. The following excerpt refers to him :—

43 Edward III (1369)—

"De protectione pro illis, qui cum Edmundo comite Cantebrigg' ad portes Aquitanniæ profecturi sunt."[3]

"Consimiles litteras Regis de protectione habent subscripti, qui in obsequim prædictum cum præfato comite profecturi sunt, per idem tempus duraturas, sub eadem data : videlicet."[4]

Translation :—

"To the safe conduct of those who are about to set out into (the parts of) Aquitania with Edmund, count of Canterbury."

"A similar letter of the King for safe conduct is held by the undermentioned persons who are about to set forth on the aforesaid service with the above-named Count, which (letters) are to be valid for the same period (being given) under the same date, to wit."

There are many names attached to the document, and at the end is that of "Johannes del Isle, de Gatecombe de Insula de Wight."

His death must have occurred about this time. It is said that he left no issue, and that his sisters, Elizabeth and Eva, became co-heirs to the estates. The inquisition was taken 43 Edward III :—

"*Joh'es de l'Isle de Gatecombe.*"
Whytewell maner', in Insula Vecta, ut de castro de Caresbroke.
Aireton ten' vocat' Sweleinge, in Insula Vecta.
Gatecombe maner'. . . . ."[5]

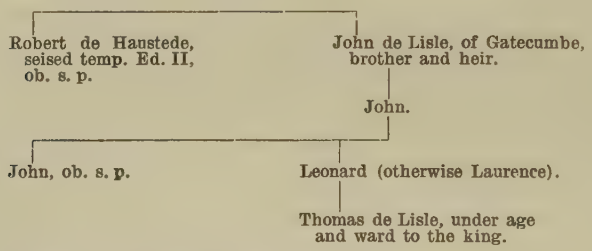
Despite the widely received opinion, that on the death of John (3) de Lisle in the year 1369-70, his estates devolved to his sisters; there is conflicting evidence on record, showing that other members of the Lisle family were seised of the Whitwell and Gatcombe manors for many years after his death. Among other documents stored in the British Museum is a volume of "Papers relating to the Isle of Wight, etc." The following excerpt is from these MSS., p. 273 :—"Discharge from William Monte Acuto, earl of Salisbury, for the issues and profits of the Lordships of the Isle of Wight and Carisbrook Castle, 11 Richard II (1388)." Among the memos. is a receipt "From Ralph de Wolverton,

[1] *Excerpt. e. Rot. Original*, vol. ii.
[2] *Suss. Arch. Collect.*, vol. xii, p. 32,
[3] *Dep. K. Public Rec. Rep.*, No. 3, p. 203.
[4] *Syllab. Rymers Foed.*, vol. iii.
[5] *Cal. Inq. p. m.*, vol. ii, p. 297, No. 68 (Rec. Com.).

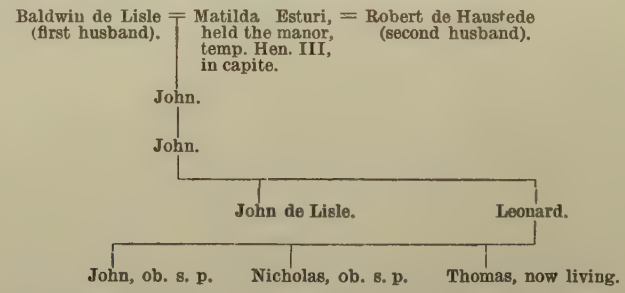
40*s.* a year, from the farm of the manor of Gatcombe, etc., late in the hands of Ingelram de Coucy, late earl of Bedford, and lady Isabella, his wife, by reason of the minority of Thomas, son and heir of Laur. de Lisle, the ward and marriage of which Thomas were sold to the said Ralph by Ingelram and Isabella for a certain sum paid to their hand before the forfeiture of the said Ingelram. To hold, etc., etc., from the day when the said Ingelram forfeited, up to the legal age of the said heir by paying yearly to the said castle of Caresbrok the said 40*s.* on the feasts. . . . ." [1]

In 1390 " The king sued Ralph de Wolvertone (and another) for the next presentation to the church of Gatecumbe." The particulars at the inquiry held are found in the Plea Rolls (De Banco Trinity, 13 Rich. II, m. 295), and are of interest in furnishing two pedigrees.[2]

The King's attorney gave this pedigree :—



The defendants furnished this pedigree :—



and stated " That the manor was held of the honour and castle of Carisbroke in the Isle of Wight and not *in capite* of the King, for the King had given it to his daughter Isabella, who married Ingelram de Coucy, late earl of Bedford, and Ingelram de Coucy had sold the marriage of Thomas, son of Leonard, to Ralph, the defendant."

From an entry in the Patent Rolls the verdict was given in the King's favour :—" June 10th, 1393, the King presents Thomas Noreys to the living of Gatecoumbe, by reason of the minority, etc., of Thomas, son and heir of Laurence Lisle." [3]

[1] *Add. MS.*, No. 24,879 (Br. Mus.).
[2] *The Genealogist*, New Ser., vol. xiv, p. 26.
[3] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 1391—1396, Rich. II.

The pedigrees given here are instructive, in showing how much could be forgotten by a family in the course of eighty years. The Crown pedigree differs materially from that propounded by the family. Both cannot be right, and both can be shown to be wrong.

The case of the Crown errs in making Sir Robert de Haustede, brother of John de Insula (1), of Gatcombe. He was his guardian, and, probably, his stepfather, as there is presumptive reason to suppose that he married Joan, widow of Baldwin de Lisle, of Gatcombe, father of John (1) of Gatcombe.

The pedigree submitted by the Lisles is interesting, showing that by 1390, the myth of the marriage of Baldwin de Lisle to Maud Esturi, since followed by so many writers, had already taken root. She is represented as marrying Sir Robert Haustede after Baldwin's death. This statement is incorrect, for there is contemporary proof that Baldwin's widow was named Joan, not Maud, and there is reason to think that she did marry Haustede. Again, Baldwin was grandson and heir of Maud Esturi, not husband, as proved from contemporary documents, *e.g.* :—

1307. Sept.—"The marriage of the son and h. of Baldwin de Lisle, deceased, granted to John de Chorleton."

,, ,, "Grant to Robert de Haustede of the custody of the lands of Baldwin, dec., during the minority of son and heir."

,, Oct.—"Joan, the widow, to pay to Robert de Haustede, the younger, 23*d.* yearly excess of her dower."

,, Nov.—"Grant to Robert de Haustede, junior, of the fees, advowsons, and lands held in dower by Joan, late wife of the said Baldwin . . . . if the same fall during that period," *i.e.*, if she died during the minority of her son, Robert, was to have custody of the dower lands also."

1309. Sept.—Robert de Haustede, guardian of the land and heir . . . .

,, Nov.—At the instance of Robert de Haustede, the younger, the King grants free warren, at Gatcombe, to John, son and h. of Baldwin, under age and in the King's custody."

1309-10. March.—"Complaint made by Robt. de Haustede against Ralph de Gorges. . . . ."

1311. Nov.—Robert de Haustede, junior, still in charge of the lands. . . .

These entries clearly prove that Robert de Haustede was not an elder brother of John de Lisle, and that the latter did not succeed the former as brother and heir.

It is quite clear that Leonard Lisle, in the pedigree, is identical with Laurence Lisle, the name having been wrongly transcribed. His relationship to the last male heir was probably that of uncle.

A.D. 1370. LAURENCE LISLE appears seised of the estates, and of influence in the island, judging from the following excerpt :—

1372. June. "The King appoints Laurence Lisle, the abbot of Quarre, and Ralph de Wolverton, wardens of the coast of the Isle of Wight."[1]

His wife's name was Isabel. She is shown by documentary evidence to have survived her husband several years. A petition (written in

[1] Hardy, *Syll. Rymers F.*

French) is presented, *temp.* of Henry IV, making a claim to the Lisle estates, at the time held by Laurence Lisle. The petition is addressed :—

"To the very excellent and very dread Lord the King. Your lieges, John Bremshete and Elizabeth, his wife, humbly supplicate your Royal Majesty of your special grace to grant them a special assize of "*novel disseisin*" against Isabel, who had been wife of Laurence de Lisle, and Thomas, his son, of a disseisin done by them to the said suppliants of their free tenement in Gatcombe, in the Isle of Wight. . . . ."[1]

The purport of the document is clear. John Bramshott, in right of his wife Elizabeth, a sister and co-heir of the last John de Lisle (who died s.p.), claimed Gatcombe as next heir—that Lawrence de Lisle, and afterwards his widow, Isabel, and Thomas, his son, had claimed it also, and had, moreover, dispossessed Bramshott, who here petitions for a writ of novel disseisin against them. A writ of "*mort d'ancestor*" had probably been issued in favour of Bramshott and his wife.

"This writ was applicable where—upon the death of the demandant's (here Bramshott's wife) father or mother, brother or sister . . . . some person other than the lawful heir had entered on the land. In the present instance no doubt Lawrence de Lisle had done so. If the demandant could prove that the ancestor had died seised 'in his demesne as of fee' and that he, the demandant, was the heir, the result of the decision of these points would be the establishment of the demandant to the possession against the tenant. The assize of '*novel disseisin*' was applicable where the demandant himself had been turned out of possession. If successful the demandant would in this proceeding recover his possession and also damages for the injury sustained."[2]

It is somewhat difficult to understand how the Bramshotts claimed to be the heirs of John (3) de Lisle, if descendants of his brother Leonard, otherwise Lawrence, were living, unless some question of the half blood arose, that is, if John and Lawrence were sons of different mothers, but of this there is no positive proof. Lawrence de Lisle apparently was dead by or before 1388, leaving issue a son and heir.

THOMAS LISLE, of Gatcombe, was a minor in ward to Ingelram de Coucy, and under age in 1393. On June the 10th in that year "The King presents Thomas Noreys to the church of Gatcombe, by reason of the minority of Thomas Lisle, son and heir of Lawrence Lisle."[3] It is stated in the Feudal Aid, of 1428, that he held, jointly with William Bramshot, two knights' fees, in Gatcombe, Whitwell, and Calborne.

"Que Thomas Lisle et Willelmus Bramshet quondam tenuerunt."[4]

From this it may be surmised that he died prior to 1428, leaving a son, heir to his estate.

A.D. 1428. JOHN LISLE, presumably the son and heir of Thomas Lisle, since he is shown holding, with William Bramshot, the fees previously held by Thomas Lisle, succeeded.

"Willelmus Bramshet et Johannes Lisle tenent ij f' m' in Gatecumbe, Whitwell et Calbourne, que, etc."[4]

[1] *Stowe MSS.*, No. 541, f. 109 *b*, No. 72 (Br. Mus.).
[2] Digby, *Hist. of the Law of Real Property*, pp. 81–2.
[3] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 1391—1396.
[4] *Cal. Inq. & Ass. re Feudal Aids*, p. 353.

In the later Roll, of 1431,

"Johannes Lysle de Caulbourne, gentilman, seisitus fuit ut de libero tenemento de dimid' f' m' in Caulbourne in dicta insula."

He likewise held half a fee, in Compton, in the same Aid. No further documentary evidence is forthcoming, and presumably, at his death, the Gatcombe estates reverted to John, the grandson of John Bramshot, who had married Elizabeth, sister and co-heir of John (3) de Lisle. (See Pedigree No. 2.)

JOHN BRAMSHOTT was next in possession. In the De Banco Rolls,[1] 22 Henry VI (1444), "John Bremshet sued William Fawkener and two others for the manor of Cheshulle in the Isle of Wight, claiming under a Fine levied, 22 Edward III, by which the manor had been settled on John del Isle, of Gatcombe, and his heirs."

John, son of John del Isle, of Gatcombe, seised 22 Edw. III.
|
Elizabeth.
|
William.
↓
John Bremshet, the plaintiff.

He married Katherine, daughter of Sir John Pelham, and had issue by her two daughters. Dying 8 Edward IV (1469), he is shown, at the inquisition following his death, seised of the manors of Gatcombe, Whitwell, Westover, etc.

Margaret, one of the daughters and a co-heir, married Sir John Pakenham, of Sussex, and both he and she died 15th October, 2 Henry VII. The writ of mandamus was issued October 22nd, the inquisition being taken 5th November, 2 Henry VII :—

"Margaret, late wife of John Pakenham, died seised of the undermentioned manors in fee. Edmund Pakenham, aged 6 and more, is her son and heir. Since her decease the premises have been occupied and the issues and profits thereof taken by Thomas Arundel, Knt., Lord Mawtravers, by what right or title the jury know not. Hants. A moiety of the manor of Bramshute held of William Stanley, Knt. and the Lady Elizabeth, his wife—Lady Worcester in her right, as of the manor of Walton; service unknown. Isle of Wight. A moiety of the manors of Gatcombe, Whitewell and Calborne worth £9; £6; and £5, respectively and severally held of Edward Widevile, Knt. as of the lordship or castle of Caresbroke; service unknown."[2]

Elizabeth, sister and co-heir, married John Dudley, and died in the year 1499, leaving a son, Edmond, to succeed.

Sir Richard Worsley states "That John Dudley and John Pakenham, in right of their wives, took possession of the aforesaid manors, and held them in co-partnership."[3] The Whitwell estate passed through the hands of Geoffrey Pole, who had married Constance, daughter of Sir Edmund Pakenham. Sir John Oglander remarks :—"He (Sir Jeffrey Pole) sowld ye Mannor of Whitwell, in ye lyfetime of his mother to severoll persons. Ford, that Nicholas Numan hath, was parte of ye sayd mannor."[4]

[1] *The Genealogist*, New Ser., vol. xviii, p. 101.
[2] *Cal. Inq.*, C. Series, vol. ii (42), pub. 1904.
[3] W., *Hist. I. W.*, p. 241.
[4] Ogl., *Mem.*, p. 100.

THE FOLLOWING SCHEME SETS FORTH THE CONNECTION OF THE "BRAMSHOTT" FAMILY WITH THE MANORS OF GATCOMBE AND WHITWELL, I. OF W.

- John Bramshott, of Bramshott, co. Hants, Esquire, brief to him in the I. of W. 1377, living 1399. = Elizabeth, sister and co-h. of John (3) de Lisle, of Gatcombe and Whitwell, living 1399.
  - William Bramshott, Knt., son and h., holds in 1428, 2 Knights' fees, etc., conjointly with John Lisle, ob. 1439. = Joan, living 1428.
    - John Bramshott, son and h., born by 1418, of age 1439, ob. 1469 (*Inq. p.m.*, 8 Ed. IV). = Katherine, dr. of Sir John Pelham, ob. 1481 (*Inq. p. m.*), held the Manor of Gatcombe. = (2) Sir Thomas Lewkenor, of Trotton, co. Sussex.
      - by 1481. Elizabeth, dr. and co-h., ob. 1499. = John Dudley, ob. 1498.
        - Edmond.
      - by 1478. Margaret, dr. and co-h., ob. 1485 (*Inq. p. m.*, 2 Henry VII, No. 54). = Sir John Pakenham, (*Inq. p. m.*, 2 Hen. VII).
        - Sir Edmund Pakenham, Knt., ob. 1528. = Katherine.
          - Constance, dr. and co-h. = Geoffrey Pole (sold the Whitwell moiety).
          - Elizabeth, dr. and co-h. = Sir Edmund Mervyn, ob. 1553.
  - George, of Standen, "*in jure uxoris*," 1439. = Elizabeth, dr. and h. of Wm. Urry, of Standen, I. of W.
  - Margaret = John Lisle, of Thruxton, co. Hants.
  - Baldwin Bramshott, living (1468 Anc. Deeds, ch. 307).

Names of landholders possessed of estates in Whitwell are mentioned in island deeds from time to time :—

In 1331, "Henry de Lynn, of Southampton and Petronilla his wife, grant lands in Appleford and Down Court (Chale-doune) to Barton oratory."[1]

In 1344, "William de la Forde (Ford farm) grants lands to the same foundation."[2]

In 1431, John Roucle is assessed 10 shillings for half a Knight's fee[3] and Ralph Dynelay is there shown seised of the Wolverton estate.

In 1642, Sir John Dingley, Knt. was returned for the same property.

In 1579, "John Taylere and Anne, his wife" sold their moiety of the manors of Gatcombe and Whytewell to John Worsley of Appuldurcombe.[4] (These estates had come to them by the marriage of a granddaughter and co-heiress of the de Gotten's, of Chale, about the year 1510.)

Of Whitcombe Manor.

This manor is entered in the Domesday Record as belonging to William, son of Stur :—

"The same William holds Witecome (Whitcomb in Whitwell). Godric held it in parage of king Edward. (It was) then (assessed) at 1 hide; it is now assessed at nothing. There is land for 1 plough, which is there in (the) demesne with 3 bordars, and 2½ acres of meadow. It was worth 10 shillings; it is now worth 15 shillings."[5]

The estate was evidently small, a kind of home farm, large enough to be cultivated by the one plough with its team of oxen and left in charge of a reeve or bailiff. Godric, the tenant, is conjecturally the same person who is recorded holding from the Confessor other estates at Arreton, Brading, Carisbrooke.

It is recorded in the *Testa de Nevill* that "The abbot of Mountsbourg holds one fee at Wydecoumbe from the lady Matilda le Estour." In a Calendar of Patent Rolls, 6 Edward I, is entered the following :—

"Wydecumb' (Southt.); appointment of Solomon de Rochester and Master Thomas de Sodington to take the assize of mort d'ancestor arraigned by John, son of Hugh Charles, against Matilda Stur and the prior of Carisbrooke touching a toft and land in."[6]

It may be surmised that the estate had been given to the Norman Abbey by some member of the Stur family. The mother abbey had a priory at Appuldurcombe, and supervised from thence the profitable working of the farm.

At the dissolution of the "alien priories" this manor shared the same fate as the priory. The property became later a part of the Worsley estates, and was left by Sir Richard Worsley, in 1564, as part of his wife's marriage dower. Later, Sir Thomas Worsley leases on a tenure of three lives a portion of Widcombe, known as "Holbrooks," to William Hardley, for £192 cash, eight shillings yearly, and a heriot of twenty-one shillings on death.

[1] *Cal. Inq. a.q.d.*, File 210, p. 300, 4 Edw. III.
[2] *Ibid.*, File 257, p. 380, 15 Edw. III.
[3] *Feudal Aid Ass.*, p. 365.
[4] *Feet of F.*, 21 Eliz.
[5] V. C. H., *The Domesday Survey*, vol. i, p. 519.
[6] *Dep. K. P. Rec.*, 47th Rep., p. 401.

The Undercliff portion of Whitwell comprises three properties, Old Park, Wolverton-under-Wath, and Mirables.

Of "Old Park."

The name—an interesting one to the antiquary from its suggesting early associations—is derived from an old Anglo-Saxon word "*parruc,*" a park, an enclosed area of woodland affording a sanctuary for wild animals, and reserved for hunting purposes. How long the property has been so called is uncertain, but in all probability it has been so designated for centuries. When part of any open land was allowed to be inclosed in the middle ages it commonly became a park, and the franchise of a park was a high privilege. Speed's Map of the Isle of Wight, published 1610, shows three parks in the Island, at Avington, at Wootton, and in the Undercliff, extending from Bonchurch to Niton, designated "St. Lawrence Park." On the western side of the estate is a large area of rough ground still named "the Warren." A "free warren" in Norman times was an unfenced area lower in degree than a park, and defined as a "Franchise or Place privileged to Keep Beasts or Fowls of warren, which are Hares, and Conies, Partridges, and Pheasants." Adjoining Wolverton, and extending from the foot of the cliff, is another enclosure known as the "Green Park." During the Saxon and Norman periods the Undercliff consisted for the most part of forest, woodland, and heath. Being scantily populated, a large area of the open, unenclosed, and uncultivated land on the manorial estates would naturally be preserved for sporting purposes by the manor lords.

Early in Edward II's reign, 1309, a charter was granted to John de Insula, son of Baldwin, and his heirs of free warren. This privilege had been granted a few years earlier to the De Insulas, of Wodyton, on the adjoining estates of Bonchurch and Rewe. An indenture, bearing date 1689, recites the manorial rights appertaining to the Whitwell estate, and, after certain provisos, reserves the right of fowling, hawking, hunting etc., privileges conferred by the charter granted four centuries earlier.

Old Park was held by the Worsleys in 1774, and since by the Walkingshaws, the Haddons, Sir John Cheape, and lastly by Mr. Spindler.

Wolverton-under-Wath

is so called to distinguish it from a larger estate situated at Shorwell, a few miles further westwards. Other properties having the name of Wolverton are found in various parts of England, where Scandinavian settlers can be traced. Mr. Shore says: "We must look to a personal source for the first origin of the name. The Island Jutes were Goths, and one of the more characteristic of the old Gothic names was Ulph, Ulpha, or Ulwar, and the several Wolvertons in question, might well have been known in early days as Wulpherston (*Wulfhere's Town*)." In the year 661, Wulfer, the son of Penda, subdued the Isle of Wight.

The manor of "Wolverton-in-Shorwell" is entered in Domesday Book under the name of "*Ulwarcumb,*" and held by William, son of

Stur. Both the Wolverton estates passed, presumably by marriage of a daughter of Stur parentage to an alien, Ralph, taking his name "de Wolverton," it is thought from these holdings. He is mentioned as giving the tithes of these domains to Carisbrook Priory.

In the Testa de Nevill, a John de Wolverton is recorded seised of the eighth part of a fee at Wolverton (Shorwell), and the seventh part of one fee in South Wathe (Whitwell), as tenant of lady Matilda de Estur :—

"*Tenentes ejusdem Matill' le Estour*"—Joh'es de Wolv'ton tenet viii^{am} partem j f.m. in Wolv'ton et vij^{am} partem j feodi in Suth'wathe." [1]

It is conjectured that he built the old house at Wolverton-under-Wathe, the remains of which are still in existence. "Not far from thence to the southward, on a piece of land nowe Sir John Dinglie's, there appeareth ye ruynes of another chapell, but what itt wase is nowe utterlye unknowne," writes Oglander in 1632 [2] :—

In 1376, Ralph de Wolvertone, lord of Kingston, is found presenting to the chapel there, and, in 1388, he had charge of the half knight's fee in Niton manor for the king. Two years later he disputes the right of presentation to the church at Gatcombe with the king (see page 242). Worsley refers to an estate at Kingsclere, on the mainland held by the de Wolvertons, where the name still survives. The Wolverton family ended in an heiress, who married John Dingley. In reference to this marriage, Oglander remarks : "Dingley matched with ye daughtor and heyre of that awntient famelye de Wolverton by whome they now injoye Wolverton." In the reign of Henry V the estates in question are found vested in that family, and remained so till the Revolution.

Canon Venables refers "to the little farm and ruin of Wolverton as being very picturesque, the ivy-clad gable ends of the ruin, the quaint old farm house, the runnel of crystal water gushing out of the rock, the old trees which overshadow the grey walls, form a picture lovely enough to induce any to turn out of his road, while the antiquary will be delighted to discover an undoubted example of what is now so rarely to be met with—a *house* of the 13th century. Those who imagine that every building with pointed windows must have had an ecclesiastical purpose have long since dubbed the ruin *Wolverton Chapel,* but there is no question that it is a specimen of domestic architecture, and, as such, of much interest. The remains show us a gabled building of two stories (the lower probably serving as a store house), with lancet windows at each end, and a two storied appendage at one angle, corresponding exactly in plan to the mediæval houses still remaining at Crowhurst, in Sussex, and Little Wenham Hall, Essex. Meagre as the accommodation appears to modern notions, those who are acquainted with the habits of our forefathers, and know how very public their domestic life was than that of their descendants, will see nothing to surprise them in the fact that the dwelling of a man of substance should have contained only two rooms—one large apartment, as the general living and eating room of the household during the day, and being used as the sleeping

[1] W., *App.*, No. 30. [2] Ogl., *Mem.*, p. 189.

room of the dependants at night; the other smaller room being used as the retiring room and bedchamber of the family," adding: "This interesting fragment deserves more attention than it has received, and it would be the better for a little conservative repair."[1] He alludes to it later on, under the head of "Domestic Architecture," as follows:—"The small ruined house near St. Lawrence, commonly called *Wolverton Chapel,* is a singularly valuable E. English relic."[1]

Mr. Percy G. Stone says:—"All that we can identify of the ruins clearly point to the former existence of a domestic building of the early part of the 14th century. Some writers have asserted this ancient house to be a 13th century building, but a close examination will disprove this assertion, as well as the still more erroneous one of its having been a chapel. We may take it to have formed one of the mediæval domestic residences found in the Island, of which two only besides Wolverton remain—those of Swainston and Chale, both exhibiting the same characteristics; a great hall or living room, lighted by a traceried gable window, with a store or kitchen underneath, and a lower annexe adjoining one end, the upper storey of which was used as a bed or retiring room for the lord, while the basement formed the servants' quarters. At Wolverton this annexe was of one storey only, and indeed it is difficult to believe the building itself was ever used for a dwelling house," adding in a note: "It may have formed a hunting lodge for the use of the family residing at Shorwell. The property owned by the de Wolvertons at the back of the Wight comprised all that portion of the Undercliff between the parishes of St. Lawrence and Niton. It was a long way thence to Shorwell, and the state of the roads—if any such existed—can be conjectured." Mr. Stone's personal opinion is "That it was merely built as a store or refuge for the steward's use, who would be appointed to look after his lord's shore-rights and receive the rents of the farm lands."[2] Mr. Stratton, writing in 1899, says: "The building was erected 1330-1340, Edw. III, by one of the de Wolvertons, who owned the whole of the underwathe of Whitwell, extending from the parish of St. Lawrence to that of Niton, and still called 'Old Park.' It remained one property until 1774, when it is found in possession of the Worsley family."

Of Mirables.

This is now a very small holding, though identified by Mr. Round as the "Abla" of Domesday Book. If this be so other lands must have been comprised with it.

This property formed part of the endowment of the Priory of St. Cross, in the Isle of Wight. The priory was founded and endowed with lands at Carisbrooke and elsewhere in the island, by Baldwin de Redvers, between the years 1107-1136, *c.* 1120. The priory was situate on the Lugley brook, near its junction with the river Medina, below Newport. The site is marked on the Ordnance Map near Towngate Bridge. The farmhouse which stood on it was pulled down in order to make room for the Freshwater, Newport, and Cowes Railway. The priory was a cell

[1] Venables, *Guide I. W.*, p. 253. [2] *Archit. Antiq. of the I. of W.*, vol. i, p. 85.

Whitwell Church, I.W., 1910.

belonging to the great Benedictine house of Tiron, or Turon, in the Orleannois, about sixteen miles S.E. of Tours. With other alien houses it was seised, in time of war with France, and administered by the Crown. On 20th April, 1390, licence was granted to the abbot and Convent of Tiron to part with their estates. William of Wykeham purchased the Mirables estate, and in the year 1391 settled it on his College, at Winchester. Mirables was held of the priory by a chief rent of 3*s.* 6*d.* The earliest reference to it in the College records occurs in 1426, when it was known as Mirabelesland, and in the occupation of three brothers, Thomas, Richard, and John Orchard. They demurred to the payment of the chief rent, probably because it had not been collected for a number of years. The Warden of the College distrained their flock of sheep, two hundred in number, which the brothers rescued. Litigation ensued in which the right of the College to the chief rent, as successors in title of the monks of St. Cross, was established. The record of the proceedings in the action is preserved at Winchester.

The *Exchequer Alien Priories,* 8-10, 18th Edward II, and Stapleton's *Magna Rotuli, etc., Normanniæ,* have been referred to, but neither contain any mention of Mirables. It would appear to have been almost *a terra incognita.*

In the Feudal Aid of 1327, a "Roberto Merable" is entered in the Assessment list, and, in a Court Roll, 2 Edward IV (1463), "The tything man presents that Robert Orchard has not yet thrown open the king's highway by Mirables which he had blocked up to the injury of the public. Orders were given to repair it before the next court." A further brief reference is entered on the Whitwell Church register to the baptism, in 1754, "of the child of 'Maud J. Chandler,' strangers, Mirables."

THE CHURCH.

"What is a Church? Our honest sexton tells
'Tis a tall building, with its tower and bells;
Where priest and clerk with joint exertion strive
To keep the ardour of their flock alive;
That, by his periods eloquent and grave,
This, by responses, and a well-set stave.
'Tis to this Church I call thee, and that place
Where slept our fathers when they'd run their race."

This is the one edifice in which every parishioner may be said to have a sacred interest. The present church presents some singularities and well deserves a visit. It originally consisted of two separate chapels contiguous to each other, and having separate dedications, the earliest foundation being the manorial chapel situated on the north side, and dedicated to St. Radegund. This north chapel was probably built and endowed with the adjoining land, in the 12th century, by a De Estur, lord of Gatcombe, for the convenience and use of the tenants on his manors at Whitwell and Witcombe, when access to the mother church at Godshill had become difficult on account of its removal further northward.

In the Episcopal Register of Bishop Woodlock, 1305-16, the manorial lord is found to have presented by the title of the chantry of Gatcombe, *Cantaria Manerii de Gatcombe,* though placed in Whitwell. "The land adjoining, which was the endowment of the chantry, is esteemed to be in the parish of Gatcombe and pays a pension to the mother church." Worsley says: "The Vicar of Godshill officiates in the chapel of Whitwell, where the rector of Gatcombe is bound to assist him; but on account of the distance he pays four nobles annually to the Vicar of Godshill to perform the whole."[1] It is doubly interesting, as being one of the very few chantries still remaining in existence, for the present incumbent continues to receive the small yearly stipend attached to the chantry.

The second and smaller chapel, placed on the south side, is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was added in the beginning of the reign of Henry III, and, after the grant of Wydcombe to the abbey of Montebourg, the monks took possession of this aisle for their tenants and served it with a priest of their own order. This chapel properly belongs to the parishioners of Whitwell, having the parochial altar at the end of the smaller aisle. The church was erected to minister to the joint wants of the Godshill parishioners living in the southern half of the district, and for those resident in the Undercliff part of the Whitwell parish, who had to climb up the cliffs and along the time-worn footpath, now known as "Redgond," to pay their vows at the shrine of their patron Saint. Tradition affirms that pilgrimages were, in mediæval times, undertaken to the shrine of "Our Lady of Whitwell." According to the decree of Bishop Fox's Chancellor, the inhabitants of Whitwell, as parishioners of Godshill, are to be buried in the churchyard of the mother parish. The De Heynos, lords of Stenbury, were the supporters and benefactors of this chapel. During the earlier part Whitwell was a chapel of ease to Gatcombe and Godshill, and the rector of Gatcombe received the rents with which the chantry of St. Radegund was endowed, and had in return to officiate in the church at stated periods. We further learn from a decree, dated 1502, "that the incumbents of Gatcombe and Godshill were bound to find and provide a fit and decent priest, constantly to reside in the village, and to celebrate mass and all other divine offices on the Lord's day and other festivals." At the present time the vicar of Whitwell receives £1. 3*s*. 4*d*. in lieu of service. The living was amalgamated with those of Niton and Godshill about 1730, and again separated in 1867.

The following return was made by the jurors to "An Inquirie made by Virtue of a Commission from his Highness the Lord Protector concerning the uniteing of Parishes within the Isle of Wight accordinge to theire best Inquirie":—

"Whitwell being a Chappell of Ease to Godshill, about three miles distant from the Parish Church, having a convenient Church to conteyne the Inhabitants, which are a very considerable numbr. The Tithes, aboute Thirty Pounds by the yeare, Wee conceive it very fit to be made a Parish. Gatcombe Parish, distant foure miles, having a Chappell of Ease annexed to the said

[1] W., *Hist. I. W.*, p. 242.

Chappell of Whitwell; the Profitts worth about Forty Pounds by the yeare. John Worsley, Esquire, Patron, we think fitt to be united to Whitwell, likewise the Family's of Deane and Berrill, belonging to the Parish of Godshill, and distante about foure miles from the Parish Church, lying convenient for Whitwell, the tithe of which is worth aboute 50*s.* by the yeare."

The patron saint of the Stur family was St. Radegund, hence the dedication of the chantry to this saint. "On the hills towards Dover are the stately ruins of the once famous and wealthy abbey of St. Radegund. The foundation is involved in some obscurity, but it is usually assigned to Godfrey, earl of Perch. Others attribute it to Richard I. Henry III gave it a hundred acres of land, and Henry, the prior, was made a baron of the Exchequer, 49 Henry III. King John went there, and Edward I visited the monastery several times, and gave with various oblations a bit of the true cross as a royal gift. In *Wykeham's Register,* 1395-6, "dominus William Champ, rector or warden of St. Radegund's free chapel in St. Paul's Cathedral," is entered.[1]

The other English dedications to her memory are rare, one each in Yorkshire, Nottingham, Lincoln, and Portling in Kent, the latter with Whitwell being under the twofold invocation of St. Radegund and St. Mary, the Virgin. Jesus College, Cambridge, is the outcome of a Benedictine foundation dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, St. John the Evangelist, and St. Radegund.

St. Radegund was a German princess, daughter of Bortaire, King of Thuringia, but living in France for many years, having been taken captive at the age of ten, and falling to the share of Clotaire, King of Soissons, was married to him, an unwilling bride, at eighteen. The riotous court life of that period caused the princess to withdraw from the court, and being of an ascetic frame of mind, to devote her time and fortune to the relief of the suffering poor around her. On her brother being violently put to death the princess claimed her liberty, and after passing from one religious house to another she finally proceeded to take the veil, A.D. 594, at Poitiers, within the domains of her husband, who gave to her the land on which a nunnery might be built, and money sufficient for all her need. These large funds were devoted to the maintenance of the nunnery with its two hundred inmates, mostly drawn from the highest ranks. In her humility the office of abbess was declined, the lady being content to perform the lowliest, meanest, and hardest duties of the big household. Despite this Radegund was no less a queen in her convent, for she ruled over the community, prescribing the rigorous measures for prayers and fasting with the necessary recreations. Her tender care for the lepers under her charge called forth the most urgent remonstrances. Notwithstanding the terrible and continued austerities she practised, the princess lived to be nearly seventy, and, after her death, was sincerely mourned over and laid to rest, hard by the convent of which she had been the Superior for thirty years or more, "honoured in life and mourn'd in death."

Canon Venables,[2] writing in 1860, says:—"The church presents some singularities, and is deserving of a visit. Its plan is that so

[1] *Wyk. Reg.*, vol. i, p. 300 (H. Rec. Soc.). [2] Venables, *Guide I. W.*, p. 255.

common in the island—two almost equal bodies, with a stone-ribbed south porch, and small square tower of pleasing outline at the west. The two bodies, which are divided by an arcade of singular rudeness, originally constituted two separate chapels." . . . "Cromwell's Commissioners recommended the union of the two chapels, which has been practically carried into effect."

The following descriptive account is taken from Mr. Percy G. Stone—*The Architectural Antiquities of the Isle of Wight*[1] :—

"The oldest part of the church now in existence is the 12th century chancel pier with its voussoirs, brought to light in the restoration of 1868, when the foundations of the old south aisle were also discovered just within the present wall. We may take it that the Romanesque church consisted of a nave and chancel, dedicated to the patron saint of the Estur family, S. Radegund. In the beginning of the 13th century a north aisle, as at Niton, may have been added, as, on taking down part of the west end in 1868, it was found that it had not been bonded into the north wall." . . . "A north aisle can hardly be spoken of as a certainty, as no foundations confirming this theory have yet been discovered. Towards the middle of the century the south aisle appears to have been built. In the 15th century the north wall was reconstructed—the Romanesque chancel arch taken down, and parts of it used to rebuild the wall with; the west window inserted in place of an earlier light, and also an east window, it may be, took the place of an earlier one. The 16th century saw the greatest changes. The south aisle was widened . . . and at the same time lengthened eastward, and the east wall of St. Radegund's chantry brought into alignment with it. At this time the hitherto solid wall between the two chapels was opened out and a fourth bay was thus added to the dividing screen. To support the intersection of the new arch with the existing ones, the present Purbeck column appears to have been brought into requisition, probably from elsewhere, and, being found too short, was "capped" with the ugly, bulgeous freestone abacus, which thus performed the double duty of adding to the height, and at the same time supporting the width of the thick 12th century wall above. Then the south porch was added, and to complete the remodelling, the tower was built at the south-west angle, the westernmost arch being strengthened, and a cross arch thrown over the aisle to support the additional superstructure."

During the 1868 restorations a mural painting of considerable value on the south wall of the chancel, supposed to be of 15th century date, was discovered, under twelve coats of whitewash, but it literally crumbled away on being exposed to the air.

The following descriptive notes are given by the late Vicar, the Rev. R. B. Oliver :—

"In the foreground is a group of figures. One, in the habit of a scribe, holds a roll in his hand in the attitude of a pleader. The chief personage is a king, with ermine-tipped and dragon-shaped helmet, holding a drawn scimitar, the back of which is double curved. By his side stands an officer of state, with a straight sword drawn in his hand, and a peculiarly shaped cocked hat with a green feather. Next to him stands a black-faced soldier bearing a banner, the sign of which is a dragon. Close to him are two other figures, one of which is partially defaced. In the background, at the left-hand corner, is a group of angels round a triple crown; a broad red line connects this with the head of a figure supposed to be in a recumbent posture, suffering martyrdom; the body cannot be readily traced. Also in the background of the group of figures there is represented a gateway by the side of a castellated hill, and connected with a fortified castle with seven spires. At the base of the whole picture is a recumbent figure on what might be a gridiron or instrument of torture, the feet

[1] vol. i, pp. 47, 48.

Photo by] [H. B. Bacon.

Interior View of Whitwell Church, 1910.

resting against a book, and the body cut open as if disembowelled. The colouring of the figures is bright; the faces, though rude, most strongly marked and expressive. The painting cannot be placed higher than the 15th century."[1]

A full page illustration of the painting will be found in Mr. Percy Stone's work.[2]

The wall paintings here and at Bonchurch are of interest, as showing that in early days, in the humblest and most out of the way churches, the universal custom was to embellish the walls with colour. The roughness of the masonry was hidden by plaster, which was the medium for paintings of scriptural subjects, intended not only to beautify the edifice, but also to contribute very largely to the dissemination of the religious education of the mass of the people. These paintings would appeal more forcibly to an uneducated audience than the language of the preacher.

An early Jacobean altar table, with bulbous legs, stands in the chancel of St. Mary's Chapel with the inscription, *"I will take the Cup of Salvation and will call upon the Name of the Lord,"* and is worthy of notice. It is mentioned in *English Church Furniture* as a "good example."[3] The pulpit, which stands in the nave of St. Radegund's chantry, is of somewhat later date, and is also interesting. It cost 51 shillings in 1623.

Standing on the floor of the church, inside the porch entrance, is the old bell, taken down from the tower when the new peal of bells was hung. The following inscription in old Lombardic characters is found on the bell, *"Michaelis: campana: fugiant: pulsante: prophana: P.W."* "The bell of St. Michael tolling, let profane things flee away."

From the two initial letters, P.W., the bell was at first believed to have been cast by Peter de Weston, Bellfounder of London, who lived A.D. 1346-7, but later investigations have thrown doubt on this conclusion. Mr. Stahlschmidt says:—"That the pre-reformation ancient bells are almost as invariably undated as those of post-reformation are dated, and that the bells in the south and centre of England are best judged by their inscriptions. The simpler ones are certainly the earlier; that as regards the character of the lettering—inscriptions in "Lombardics," sometimes called "Uncials," or "Gothic Capitals," obtained down to the commencement of the 15th century; that inscriptions in black-letter came in about the last decade of the 14th century, 1380-1420, being the transition period between the two styles. The Lombardic inscriptions came into use in the earlier half of the 16th century, but that the 14th century (and earlier) bells could easily be distinguished by their having a stop between each word, and pointed out a regular series of development of these stops, commencing with two or three vertical circular dots or rings, then a diamond-shaped dot, then a continuation of ring and diamond, then a fleur de lis, etc." An inspection of the bell will show the absence of these stops, and this suggests that the bell belongs rather to the 16th century. "At Chale Church a 14th century bell, supposed to have been cast by Peter de Weston, can be seen."[4] The present church bells, six in number, are modern, being the gift of Mr. Spindler, of Old

[1] Lockhart, *Guide I. W.*, p. 106.
[2] *Arch. Antiq., &c.*, vol. i, p. 48, plate 37.
[3] The Rev. J. Cox and A. Harvey, p. 14.
[4] Stone, vol. ii, p. 25.

Park. They were cast by Warner and Sons, Bellfounders, of London, and have the following inscriptions :—

No. 1. "Soli Deo honor et gloria," weighs 3cwts. 3qrs. 5lbs. Note G.
No. 2. "Gloria in Excelsis Deo," weighs 4cwts. oqrs. olbs. Note F.
No. 3. "Sit nomen Domini benedictum," weighs 4cwts. 1qr. olbs. Note E flat.
No. 4. "Non nobis Domine, non nobis, sed Domini Tuo deo gloriam," weighs 5cwts. 3qrs. 2lbs. Note D.
No. 5. "In caritate perfecta, confirmet nos Trinitas Sancta," weighs 5cwts. 3qrs. 2lbs. Note C.
No. 6. "Ad laudem beatæ Maria Virginis et Sanctæ Rhadigundis," weighs 7cwts. oqrs. olbs. Note B flat.

BENEDICTION OF NEW BELLS, SEPTEMBER 24TH, 1889.

"Lift them gently to the steeple,
Let our bells be set on high:
There fulfil their daily mission,
Midway 'twixt the earth and sky.

As the birds sing early matins,
To the God of nature's praise;
These their nobler daily music
To the God of Grace shall raise.

And when evening's shadows soften
Chancel cross and tower and aisle,
They shall blend their Vesper summons,
With the day's departing smile.

Year by year the steeple music,
O'er the tender graves shall pour,
Where the dust of Saints is garnered,
Till the Master comes once more."

The following list of "Churche Goods, etc.," is given in a return made by the "Comyssyoners the first Day of Awgust in the Sixth yere of our Souraine Lorde Edwarde, the Sixthe" (1553).

"EST MEDEN."

Whitwell Chappell w'tin the p'ishe of Godishill.

P'cells remayning in the costody and charge of Nycolas Colman and Robert Jollife Church men at this p'sent.

First, one Challes of silver and gilt weinge xvj oz di.
Itm., one olde cope of blewe satten of breges.
Itm., one cope of blake silke bawdkine borderid wt Redde vellot.
Itm., one vestment purple vellot the crosse of Imagry embroderid powderid over wt flowers And angles wt the Albe to the same.
Itm., one vestmt of Russet satten of breges crossed wt grene satten of breges pouderid our withe angles and flowers.
Itm., on vestmt of whit damaske crossed wt Redde vellot powderid our wt angles and flowers of embrodery wt the albe to the same.
Itm., one vestment of blake satten of breges crossed wt Redde of the same embrodered our wt dove and the Albe to the same.
Itm., one vestmt of Redde satten of breges crossede wt blewe of the same wt the Albe to it.
Itm., one vestmt of grene olde silke bawdkin crosede wt blewe and the Albe to the same.
Itm., surpleses iiij.
Itm., Awter Clothis iiij.
Itm., Towells ij.

More remayning in the costody and chardg of Nicholas Colman and Robart Jollife as afore said.

Itm., to Corporis Casses of clothe of gold w^t ther clothes in them.

Itm., hanging in the steple bells iij and one letell bell callede the Saunt' bille hanging in the churche.

Itm., they have in a stocke called the Churche stocke kine iij and shepe lx.

P'cells solde by the p'ishe and Churche men.

Itm., on Challes of silver solde by the hands of Robert Jollife and Richarde Philxes, churchwardens in an^0 xxxviij H. viij^0 weinge xij oz and one q^t at iiij s. j d. the oz by the appointment of the p'ishe, l s. vj d.	l s. vj d.
Itm., one challise of silver solde by the handes of Richard Newnam and John Prowt, churchwardens in an^0 ij E. vj^ti by the consent of the p'ishe, xliiij s. iiij d.	xliiij s. iiij d.
Itm., olde brokine brasse solde by Nicholas Colman and Robart Jolliffe church wardens in an^0 vj^to E. vj^ti for vij s. x d.	vij s. x d.
	v £. ij s. viij d.

The Parsonage, Church Glebe, etc.

In 1872 the residence house was sold for £1,500, and the proceeds expended in or towards the purchase of the present vicarage house, garden, and land adjoining, containing in the whole 1 acre, 2 roods, and 4 perches, being parcel of a farm called "Ash Farm." This property was valued at £2,800, and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England charged on their Common Fund, a perpetual annuity of £43. 6*s.* 8*d.* to the incumbent of the living of Whitwell and his successors to meet the benefaction consisting of the difference, £1,300, in value, between the old parsonage house and the new premises.

The living has been augmented by the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty, with grants to meet benefactions as follows:—(1) In 1892 with £400 to meet £400; (2) in 1893 with £200 to meet £300; and (3) in 1899 with £150 to meet a benefaction from the incumbent of tithes amounting to £14. 8*s.* 3*d.*, arising out of 37 acres, 0 roods, and 38 perches in the parish.

The church glebe belonged to the rector of Gatcombe, and was originally apportioned in the customary way, in acre strips distributed over the common fields and ploughed by the villagers in return for clerical services. Striking evidence of this having been so was present for some years after the Commutation of Tithes Act was put in force. Clerical emoluments, up to this time, included the payments of "all manner of tithes in kind," as is shown more fully in the adjoining parish of Niton, and in estimating these the average of seven years prescribed by the Act was taken:—

"Whereas I find that the Rev. H. Worsley, D.D., as the rector of the parish of Gatcombe is entitled as Portioner (meaning a person who holds a part or portion of an estate which has originally been divided amongst co-heirs) to the tithes of corn, grain, hay and milk, arising from, or, accruing due upon certain lands of the said parish of the estimated quantity of 27 acres 1 rood 37 perches

and the amount to be paid in lieu of the above mentioned tithes is £2. 15*s*. 0*d*. That the said rector of Gatcombe is also entitled to all the tithes other than the tithes of corn, grain, hay and milk arising from or accruing due upon certain lands, the estimated quantity being 38 acres, being land belonging to the rector of Gatcombe. That the rector of St. Lawrence is also entitled to the tithes of corn, grain, hay and milk arising from 44 acres—the amount to be paid in lieu thereof £17. 0*s*. 0*d*. And whereas I find that the vicar of the said parish for the time being is entitled to all the tithes other than the tithes of corn, grain, hay and milk arising from etc. upon all the lands of the said parish except the 38 acres before mentioned, the tithes of which other than the tithes of corn, grain, hay and milk are payable to the rector of Gatcombe. The amount to be paid in lieu of the above mentioned tithes is £93. 0*s*. 0*d*. That the gross rent charge payable to the tithe owners, 26 in number in lieu of tithes for the parish of Whitwell amounts to £55. 3*s*. 8*d*."

A charity belongs to the parish called "King's Gift":—

Fanny King, widow, by her will, bearing date 26 January, 1808, and proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in 1818, gave to the rector and churchwardens of Whitwell, £50 on trust, to invest the same in government or real security, at interest, and to lay out the interest in bread, and distribute the same amongst such poor people of that parish, as they should think most in need, and at such times and in such proportions, as in their judgment would be most beneficial to such poor people.

"This sum of money is secured, with interest at 5 per cent. on a mortgage of the tolls of the roads in the Isle of Wight, etc., etc. The churchwardens of this parish receive the interest . . . . and it is laid out in bread, which is distributed at the church on the Sunday after Christmas-day amongst all the poor of the parish, in proportion to their numbers in family."[1]

An interesting link connected with the services of the church in bygone days is furnished by a plot of ground, now with cottages standing on it, called "Rush Butt," and formerly held by the tenure of supplying rushes for church purposes.

Whitwell	Issues of Lands for lights and Russhes at Christmas	Growing for ever, of whose grant they know not, to mayntayn lights yerely there and Russhes to the said churche—paid out of Robert Trefford's house of the yerely rent of	vj*d*.[2]

This little property is in the possession of the Vicar.

"The floor of our churches, until late in the 15th century, were not generally so encumbered with pews or sittings, as they became later on, but were open spaces covered with rushes," or other green stuff, wherewith to cover the pavement. The provision of fixed seats or pews, in parish churches, dates to the 16th century, and at first were only assigned to the women-folk." When "once introduced, the churchwardens soon found out the advantages of being able to derive income from the pew or seat rents."[3]

[1] *Rep. Charity Comrs.*, vol. xv, p. 496, 1826.
[2] *Chantry Certif.*, No. 52, Edw. VI.
[3] Gasquet, *Mediæval Parish Life*, pp. 60-62.

Niton Church from the South, 1808.

Chapter XI.

OF NITON.

"Hence to the neighb'ring village, Niton hight,
'Tis but a transient walk—but such a walk,
So full of beauty, novelty, repose,
Grandeur and true simplicity."[1]

The Parish of Niton is by no means the least interesting of the topographical series connected with the Undercliff.

The name itself is suggestive of early Anglo-Saxon origin; "the suffix '*ton*' constitutes a sort of test-word by which we are enabled to discriminate the Anglo-Saxon settlements. The primary meaning—believed to be related to the Celtic '*dun*'—denotes a place surrounded by a hedge. Usually, however, the '*ton*' included the settler's house. In most cases the isolated '*ton*' became the nucleus of a village."[2] A much earlier date than the Saxon era must be assigned to the parish if the claims, so ably advanced and maintained by many classical writers, are admitted, as to the connection with the traffic in tin carried on by the ancient British inhabitants of the Isle of Wight. One of the most persistent legends is, that a great trade existed with the mainland many centuries before the Christian era, and up to the time when the Greek traders from Marseilles frequented it in order to buy tin, which, the tradition says, was brought across from the mainland, in carts at low water.

"We may well thinke this Vecta, to be that Icta, which as Diodorus Siculus writeth seemeth at every tide to be an island, but when it was ebbe the ancient Britaines were wont to carry tinne thither by carts, which should be transported into France."[3]

Mr. T. W. Shore, alluding to the remains of old British trade, says: "Certainly there were traces of the tin trade. Devonshire folk would not allow it, but a great trade in tin lasted down to the 15th century, in Southampton."[4]

The difficulty in solving the problem has arisen from the vagueness of the early descriptions, involving questions as to the identity of the Isle of Wight with the ancient Ictis, of Diodorus Siculus—the Sicilian writer—with the Mictis, of Timœus or Pliny, and the Vectis of the Romans.

The first Greek navigator who penetrated into the seas in this part of the world was Phytheas, the Greek astronomer, of Marseilles, who

[1] Gwilliam, *Rambles in I. W.*, 1844.
[2] Taylor, *Words & Places*, p. 80.
[3] Camden's *Britannia*, publ. 1607.
[4] Shore, *Memorial Vol.*, p. 58 (H.F.C.).

lived 300 years B.C. From the colony of Marseilles the trade with Britain appears to have been carried on through the medium of certain ports on the coast of Gaul, near to our Island. From the north-west of Gaul the tin and lead seem to have been for a long time transported across the country to Marseilles by land carriage. For 300 years the Phœnicians enjoyed a profitable and exclusive trade with these Islands. The mode in which the tin was conveyed, from Cornwall through the Isle of Wight, and transported across the country thence to the coast of France, is detailed in two passages of the Greek historian ,and has been generally received and supported by many subsequent writers. Other authors, however, maintain that the Ictis alluded to was either one of the Scilly Islands or St. Nicholas' Isle at the mouth of the river Tamar, or St. Michael's Mount in Cornwall. But insuperable objections and difficulties can be urged against these various hypotheses, either on account of the distance by sea in the one case, or the Island of St. Nicholas being too small in the other, while in the last instance it is known that St. Michael's Mount remained a part and parcel of the mainland of Cornwall till long after the period referred to.

The ancients had knowledge of few metals except copper and tin. During the period known as the "Bronze Age" tin was greatly in demand for the manufacture of bronze, which is an alloy consisting of ten or twelve parts of tin to eighty or ninety of copper, and this was the chief metal in use at the time, of which armour, weapons, tools, etc., were made. The known sources of tin supply being limited, the trade was one of great importance, and a keen competition for it existed between the Phœnicians and Greeks and Britons. "Just as the Phœnicians came to Cornwall to get tin, so the Greeks tried to cut them out by crossing Gaul to the Isle of Wight to get their tin in opposition to Cornwall,"[1] avoiding the ocean route controlled by the opposition fleet—and opened up a land route up the Loire across Armorica to the Isle of Wight.

From a passage in Strabo there seems to be little doubt that the chief district whence the Phœnicians got their tin lay in the neighbourhood of Mount's Bay, between Truro and the Land's End. But after the new route was opened up and the great staple of the tin was no longer settled in a distant corner, it was removed from Scilly, and was fixed in the Isle of Wight, in a central part of the coast, lying equally between the two roads, and better adapted to the new arrangement of the trade. Thither the tin was carried by the Belgæ, and thither the foreign merchants resorted with their wares.

A well-known, zealous, and learned island antiquarian, the late Rev. E. W. Kell, in a paper *On the Ancient Tin Trade of the Isle of Wight,* read before the Island meeting of the British Archæological Association in 1855, maintained "That Niton, as early as 300 B.C., was the southern depôt of the ancient tin traffic, and continued to be so till the entire Conquest of Britain, by the Romans, supplied other and more convenient marts." Mr. Kell, after pointing out the insuperable difficulties in

[1] T. W. Shore, *Basis of Hampshire History*, part i, p. 59.

adopting St. Michael's Mount as the Ictis referred to, goes on to ask: "And what reason is there that we should lose ourselves in fanciful conjectures when almost every circumstance, of which the nature of the case admits, conspires to support the more obvious reading? The Isle of Wight is palpably the most direct line of route for the tin from Cornwall to its final destination, Marseilles. There is, probably, an ancient British road—certainly one used by the Romans—from Cornwall to a place called Leap, on the Hampshire coast opposite the Isle of Wight, from which the tin was conveyed to it," and was so named possibly from the narrowness of the pass. "Traces of names, associated with the tin trade, still linger at various parts of the route, such as 'Stansa Bay' and 'Stans Ore Point,' adjoining Leap, where the ore left the mainland, on its crossing to Gurnard, in the Isle of Wight—names obviously derived from the Latin word, *stannum,* tin." In the track of this ancient British road, Roman and Greek coins in fine preservation have been exhumed at various times.

An account of "The discovery of a Roman building in Gurnard Bay, and its relation to the ancient British Tin-trade in the Island," is given in the *Journal of the Archæological Association.*[1]

The Island is thought to have become separated from the mainland during the "Bronze period," so that at this time the space across the Solent would be fordable. Mr. Ernest Wilkins sets forth various geological facts which go to prove "that when the Phœnicians carried on their tin trade with Britain, or even at 25 B.C., when Diodorus Siculus wrote his history describing the Massalian tin trade to be carried on chiefly overland for reasons given by him—the Solent was fordable." Dr. Wilkins asks: "If there existed no land passage, why did the Romans not follow the present natural water-passage from the port of Southampton to the river Medina."[2]

"General tradition tells that the stone used in building Romsey Abbey was brought from Binstead, in the Isle of Wight, across the Solent, in carts at low tide by a causeway which ran from Yarmouth to near Lymington."[3]

From other evidences it would appear that the Romans also adopted the British trade route through the island. "From Gurnard is a straight open road of at least two miles in length, known as Rue Street. This road, after having crossed the forest (Parkhurst) may be traced from St. Austin's Gate to the west of Carisbrooke Castle, over a field called North Field by Sheat, and on by Chillerton Street and Chale Street to the Roman camp at Puckaster, on the south side of the Island, whence the tin was embarked, the cove being sufficiently capacious for that purpose."

Mr. Kell says "That many parts of this road are of little or no use at this time, and unless it was used heretofore for the purpose of convey-

[1] Rev. E. Kell, *Jour. Br. Arch. Ass.*, vol. xxii, p. 366.
[2] Wilkins, *Antiqt. of the I. W.*
[3] Rev. J. C. Yarborough, *Romsey Abbey*, p. 159.

ing tin, it is not easy to conjecture what purpose it was to answer."[1] Dr. Wilkins had in his possession several specimens of granular stream tin from Gurnard and Thorness Bays. "There are also places on the line of the British road through the Island, the names of which—Rue Street and Gonneville Lane—are evidently derived from places on the French coast, *viz.*, Rue, the chief town of the district near the Somme, and 'Gonneville,' on the Seine, whither the tin was to be transported."[2]

The word Puckaster, inferentially the Port Castor of earlier days, is "a modification of the Latin word *castra*. In purely Saxon districts the form *chester* is universal. As we repass to the Anglian kingdoms, the word is replaced by *caster*. One syllable of names, containing *chester, caster,* or *caer,* is usually Celtic, and seems to have been a Latinization of the enchorial name."[3]

An early writer states "That the Roman fleets cruised in the Channel or stationed themselves at the Isle of Wight." Inferentially the one place having a name, evidently Roman in its derivation, situated on the south side of the island, associated with the foregoing statement, must have been at Puckaster. It would be interesting to learn when the modern name was first used. The place is first mentioned in a survey of Niton, taken 6 James I (1608), where a "close" of eight acres is called Puckester.[4] The allied name of Puckwell occurs in 1602, applied to a smaller enclosure. A later and more exhaustive survey was taken in 1799, when a small farm on the sea front in the immediate vicinity, "Ward's" or "Weird's" farm, has an enclosure of eleven acres named Port Castor, whilst an adjoining farm—Buddle—is described as being near Port Castor.

The name of Buddle, given to the farm where the tin mart was situated, is singularly suggestive, meaning, in mining phraseology, "a large square frame of boards used in washing metalliferous ore."

"The tin mart itself," says Mr. Kell, "was situated in a most sheltered spot in a part of the Niton fields, near to Puckaster, where the tin merchants might draw up their carts and arrange their sales with the foreign purchasers." The metal was afterwards shipped on to the Phœnician galleys from the natural harbour in the cove, now nearly effaced by the Channel waves. This cove was probably "large enough in those days to harbour a Roman fleet which was under the command of the "Comes Littoris Saxonici," or "Count of the Saxon shore." A line of castles had been built and garrisoned by a Roman legion, which was placed under the command of the Count in the 4th century.

"Besides holding the important fortress of Carisbrooke, the Romans in all probability had a camp at Puckaster at the extreme point of the line along which the tin passed, to protect the mart at Niton, and the embarkation of the metal from Puckaster Cove."[5] Albin indeed alludes

[1] *The Island Quarterly Magazine*, 1877–8.
[2] Adams, *I. W.*, part iii, *Antiqt.*, by Rev. E. Kell, p. 224.
[3] Isaac Taylor, *Words & Places*, p. 173.
[4] *Aug. Off.*, Miscl. Books, vol. 421, ff. 32–47.
[5] Adams, *I. W.*, part iii, *Antiqt.*, pp. 224–8, E. Kell.

to the existence of "an artificial mound of earth of considerable height now called the 'Old Castle,' which still remains a little west of the cove, on the most accessible part of the shore. Tradition affirms that this is the spot where the tin was deposited and shipped."[1] Overlooking these lower fields is a small farm anciently named "Wards" or "Weirds," a name possibly derived from an early Saxon word having some relation to the defensive work known as "the Old Castle," which stood near. A gold coin of Maximus was found in the cliff above it.

Another remnant of antiquity is a similar artificial mound on the northern boundary of the parish, called "Bury." "The occurrence of this word," says Mr. Shore, "was evidence of a place where there had been a defensive work probably of earth." "This mound," writes Albin, "appears to have been of uncommon magnitude, but has been much diminished by the farmers for the soil of which it is composed. It is certain that it has stood on a much larger base than any of the barrows that are met with on the downs of the southern counties," and Albin goes on to express the opinion "That both mounds may have had some relation to means of defence against invasion; since by securing the two avenues the parish itself would be perfectly safe from all depredations of hostile forces." Both mounds are considered to be undoubted relics of Celtic earthworks.

One of the latest writers on this subject (*Greek Trade Routes to Britain*)—Professor William Ridgeway, "after a careful analysis of the several references to the Island in the early Greek and Roman writers, draws from them some very important conclusions as to the directions of the early routes," and "is able to differentiate the routes of the old Phœnicians and Carthaginians, the Greeks and the Romans, and shows thereby a gradual eastward movement." The claims as "to the identity of the Isle of Wight (the Victis of the Romans) with the Ictis of Diodorus Siculus and the Mictis of Timœus or Pliny, based on the evidence, is so strong that it seems to be almost incontrovertible, and any difficulty in reconciling it is far less in the case of the Isle of Wight than in those of St. Michael's Mount or Thanet. The Isle of Wight route is ingeniously supported by the discovery of coins found along the lines of the two main routes described by Strabo, by the Seine and by the Loire or Garonne. Coins of the type of those of Massalia, dating back to about 450 B.C., have been found among the various nations of the west of France from Toulouse to Armorica; they are likewise found in the Channel Islands, and in the south and west of England and at Portsmouth. On the eastern route, extending from Auvergne through central France to Kent, the coins found are of the latter type of the gold stater of Philip of Macedon, which dates only from about 250 B.C. From this it is evident that the earlier route was from the Isle of Wight to Armorica. The more eastern route appears to have been developed by the Belgæ, who obtained predominance in the south-east of England before the time of Julius Cæsar."[2]

[1] Albin's *I. W.*, p. 577 (publ. 1795).
[2] *Greek Trade Routes to Britain*, Folk Lore, March, 1890.

As to the omission of any reference to tin by Strabo in his account of British trade, Professor Ridgeway points out that "when the Romans, in the time of Cæsar, discovered the short route to the tin islands off the coast of Galicia the British trade almost ceased, so that when Strabo wrote (1-19 A.D.) tin was no longer exported from Britain."[1]

The tin trade, as already pointed out, continued till late in the 15th century. The Stanneries were formerly held at Southampton, which was a great emporium for tin. "All the Cornish tin was once brought here, and the warehouse, near the quay, where it was kept, is still called the 'Tin House.' When this method of bringing the tin hither began, or how long it lasted, I do not find; but the Tin House is mentioned in some of the ancient laws of the town." In the 15th century—31 Henry VI (1453)—"the King arrested the tin for the public service—an order to sell the tin and to send the produce in all haste to the Treasury, towards the cost of the army to be sent into Guienne. Tin that could not be sold was to be sent to London."[2]

The following excerpt is from Roach Smith's *Retrospections*: "Puck, Pixies, and Fairies, have left numerous records of their influence over public credulity, and the places named from them are usually associated with remains of antiquity of some kind. Puckaster, or Puckaster Cove, at the back of the Isle of Wight, is one of the localities which has attracted the attention of several writers, and some have been led to imagining that it is of Roman origin. A short time since I had an excellent opportunity of surveying Puckaster. As I approached the site I could see from landslips in remote times the dislocated masses had taken a fantastic form, something like that of a castle or fortified place, and to Puck it had consequently been assigned."[3]

The Rev. E. Kell says: "Mr. C. Roach Smith wrote me, in 1853, Puckaster was just the name which would have been given in the middle ages to a ruined castrum, or fort."

In such a vexed question as the foregoing, where all the various pros and cons have been so ably debated, and where the opinions and conclusions are still so diametrically opposed one to the other, the only conclusion we can safely arrive at is an open verdict of *non proven.*

We are on much safer ground in concluding that Niton, marked out by nature as a desirable site, with a good water supply, good land for arable cultivation, good down pasture, and plenty of woodland to supply fuel, had in consequence of these natural advantages become a settled place of habitation at an early date. It is also probable that the district, whether from the tin trade or not, had become prosperous before the Norman invasion took place. This inference is strengthened by the fact of the church being one of the six benefices presented by the first Lord of the Island to the Norman abbey of Lyra soon after the conquest took place—between 1066 and 1071—probably for the very reason that the benefice was a valuable one.

[1] *Greek Trade Routes to Britain*, Folk Lore, March, 1890.
[2] Silvester Davies, *Hist. of Southampton*, p. 255.
[3] *Retrospections*, vol. ii, p. 259.

Included in the parish is "a considerable extent" of what Albin in 1795 graphically described as "that singular and unique feature of the Island, known by the appellation of Under-Cliff. By some convulsion, probably as old as the deluge, the solid rock has been rent asunder for five miles, in the direction of east and west, and the separated mass seems to have rushed forward in scattered fragments towards the sea. The majestic perpendicular which has kept its station, and forms the northern boundary of this truly romantic spot, presents the appearance of the walls of an old castle of many hundred feet in height, curiously fretted into rock-work, and picturesquely interspersed with lichens, ivy, and other creeping plants."

"If the mind of any person can remain tranquil," says Mr. Wyndham, "on the first view of this wonderful country, or if he can gaze with indifference on the sublime scene above and below him, I do not envy the cool phlegm of his constitution; but I should advise him to confine his future airings to the level and dusty roads that surround our metropolis." A few years later—in 1792—there was a recurrence on a small scale of the same phenomena which resulted in the formation of the Undercliff many ages earlier, "By which the farm known as Pittlands, with a hundred acres of land, began sliding towards the sea in a confused mass of rocks and soil which lie below, leaving scarcely a foot of ground which has not changed its situation, with chasms everywhere that a horse or cow might sink into and disappear." The present appearance after the lapse of a century is still forlorn and dreary. A farm called Knowles marks the southernmost point of the Island, and forms the western boundary of Niton parish and of the Undercliff district.

The Village.

The name of the village is found spelt in a variety of ways. When the Domesday Book was compiled A.D. 1086, the name appears as Neeton :—

In the year	1216	as Newton,	In the year	1374	as Nytone,
,,	1267	,, Neuton,	,,	1470	,, Nytton,
,,	1284	,, Nyweton,	,,	1507	,, Nyton,
,,	1288	,, Niweton,	,,	1548	,, Neyghton,
,,	1296	,, Neweton,	,,	1553	,, Nyghtton,
,,	1296	,, Noweton,	,,	1560	,, Nighton,
,,	1325	,, Nwyeton,	,,	1638	,, Nyghton,

and in its latest form of Niton. The prefix "nigh" or "new" applied to the name seems difficult of explanation as far as the etymology of the word is concerned.

In order to distinguish the village from one having a similar sound—Knighton—in the parish of Newchurch, it was called "Crab Niton." Worsley says: "The parish is known by this name from the plenty of sea crabs on that coast." Hassell, writing a few years later, in 1790, cautions "visitors from using the term as being one very likely to give great offence to the villagers, who conceive that it is meant to denote their being crabbed or ill-natured."[1]

[1] *A Tour to the I. of W.*, vol. ii, p. 140.

The village proper is situated at the base of St. Catherine's Down, near the centre of the parish, and extends in detached buildings on each side in a kind of street. From north-east to south-west, the longest way possible, it does not measure two miles. It is scarcely a mile and a half broad in any part, and on the north little more than a mile. The parish has an area, including water, of some 1,400 acres. It comprises the manor of Niton and the reputed manors or lordships, of Beauchamp and Caine's Court. The soil is a good rich loam producing all kinds of grain.

The early primitive "common-field" system of culture was followed here, though the local evidences of this are not so strikingly shown as in the adjacent parish of Whitwell. In the survey of the manorial estate in 1795 various suggestions are offered for the improvement of the estate, "By acquiring by purchase, as opportunity offered, the various slices owned by the leaseholders in the 'Common Fields' and thus by disfranchising the same enable the land to be more profitably arranged for ease of cultivation and material improvement."

A small stream of water issues from the foot of the down, and is referred to in an Indenture dated 1655, as the "water course of Holiwell, coming from Hermittee Close." The reference is of interest from its association with the ancient hermitage of Walter de Lange-berewe, founded on St. Catherine's Down before 1305. In its course through the village the little rivulet receives other smaller rills, and joining with the stream coming from Whitwell is found large enough, lower down in its course, to supply two mills, and as the Eastern Yar, falls into the sea at Brading Haven.

The population during the earlier centuries probably varied little. "In a return for the seven years ending 1567, the marriages are recorded as being 13, baptisms 59, burials 27. A return for the same number of years ending 1793 states that the marriages were 11, baptisms 58, burials 30."[1] The population in 1781 was returned as numbering 267, for 1801 as 288, in 1831 as 573, inhabiting 106 houses. The number of residents had risen, in 1841, to 611, in 1851 to 681, in 1891 to 931; a slight decrease to 885 is returned for 1901. The gross rateable value, *temp.* Charles I, was £740, and amounted to £3,867 in 1858.

No very stirring incidents are recorded in the parochial history. The south side of the Island was open at all times to sudden forays from the sea front, and we are told that "the Frenchmen, in the yeare 1377, came suddenly unawares under saile, invaded and spoiled it, and the same French, in the year 1403, made the like attempt, but in vaine." Sir Richard Worsley refers to the frequent alarms occasioned by the French, "who often threatened, and had several times actually made descents on the Island, causing many families of good estimation to seek more secure and quiet habitations."

> "That Ile, which, jutting out into the sea so farre,
> Her ofspring traineth up in exercise of warre;
> Those pyrats to put backe that oft purloyne her trade,
> Or Spaniards, or the French attempting to invade."[2]

[1] Albin's *Hist. I. W.*, p. 574. [2] Drayton's *Poly-olbion*, publ. 1612.

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Cripple Path, near Mirales.

Defensive steps were taken, and in the reign of Edward II (1325) a watch of two men was stationed "at Cripple." On September 30th, 1638, the watch was again placed at Criple, at Nighton, under the charge of Sir Henry Worseley.

Soon after the appointment of Sir George Carey as Governor of the Island it was found necessary to levy a rate, in the year 1583, on all the island parishes, "In aid of the citizens of Newport when they were reduced to great straits through the plague," and Niton was assessed at two shillings and eightpence monthly for this object.

Though agriculture was the staple employment of the parishioners, fishing must also have engaged a number of the villagers. Allusion is made elsewhere to a fish market being held, every Wednesday and Friday, at the village cross, and in the "Articles of diverse Things geven by the Quene's Majestie in Chardge to Rich. Worsley, Esq., Capptaine of the Isle of Wight to put in Execucion in such sorte as by his Discrecion shall seme mete to tend to the Wealth and Strength of the said Isle," it is ordained "That all Fishermen dwellinge within our saide Isle shall have Liberty to carye and sell all kinds of Fyshe taken bye them whither theye liste."[1] Besides "the several species of fish common to other parts of the Hampshire coast, shell fish, such as lobsters, crabs, prawns, were also taken in the greatest plenty and excellence, and the village indeed receives the additional denomination of *Crab* from the plenty of those fish found near it." At one time mackerel fishing was a flourishing industry, which the villagers carried out on co-operative principles, but of late years the yield, I am told, has proved an uncertain one, and the prices unremunerative.

At the close of the fishing season a fair was formerly held in the village on Midsummer Day, near to the May-pole, standing near the Star Inn. The round of festivities ended with a ball at the White Lion Inn, an entertainment which was very popular, and attracted many parties from the surrounding villages. Sir John Oglander says:—"In those dayes that honest recreation was very common, and not dishonourable, but as a meanes to make manie matches and to drawe mutch good companie togeathor, ye gayne whereof went to ye mayntenance of ye church."

It is possible that another form of sport was in vogue, for a large field near "Town's End" is suggestively named the "Bull Ring." This field, in 1595, had a cottage on it known as Bull Ring Cottage. No butcher was allowed at this time to kill a bull till it had been "lawfully baited." In the "Assize for Butchers" (1636) we are informed "that Butchers may not kill or sell any bull or Buls unbaiten." Oglander says: "On holydays bull baiting was the recreation of the commonality." Another small holding of one acre, "a parcel of the ancient possessions of the Crown," was known by the name of "Bear Close," so it is possible that bear baiting was also indulged in.

Some place names in the village—"Buddle," "Wards," and "Bury"—have been already referred to in relation to the early tin traffic. There are other names calling for notice, *e.g.*, Bulwark Common and

[1] W., *App.*, p. 105.

Down; Prison Butts, on the northern boundary of the parish, names apparently associated with the early defence of the village. "Gore Down" is a name suggestive of a sanguinary conflict having been waged here in the distant past. It has, however, no relation to any fight, since "gore" is a word derived from the Saxon "*gor,*" signifying mud or dirt. "Musline Bottom" occurs 10 times; "Watch House," 3; "Kempson," 30; "Yarbury," 4; and "Chestland," 6 times, the three last being used in connection with the West Field. "Reeth," otherwise "Wraith's Bay," the little cove below the Old Castle, Mrs. Bagot says, "Is so-called from the bodies which are washed ashore here, with other vestiges of wrecks, as the current drives here with great force."[1]

The following descriptive account, written of Niton a century ago—in 1801—may well be taken as typically illustrating village life as it then existed in and around the Undercliff:—

The inhabitants, in number 300, are distributed into *fifty-two* families, occupying that number of houses, all built of the native free-stone of the adjoining cliff, and covered with thatch laid on in a peculiarly skilful manner. These buildings exhibit a clean, neat appearance, and are nearly all in the farm-house style, having actually been such, with small allotments to each, constituting what is called a *bargain,* a term generally used for a messuage, with from 14 to 20 acres of land, the original distribution of property in the place.

The whole parish is in the hands of 12 farmers, on different tenures, dividing among them an area of 1,350 acres in greater or less shares. Of the other tenements, one each is occupied by a schoolmaster, a blacksmith, by a tailor, by a carpenter, two by publicans, and two by shoemakers, leaving four or five for the fishermen. The rest are inhabited by labouring cottagers, who work for the respective farmers of whom they rent their houses, and pay their rent by the labour of the harvest month. For ordinary labour these cottagers receive eight or nine shillings per week, and are under contract to work for the master whose tenants they are, and who engages to find them constant employment. The labour of the harvest month for an able-bodied man is estimated at £2. 12*s.* 6*d.* besides board. Each cottage has a garden; and some an orchard; the apples of which are made into cider for home consumption. Potatoes and other vegetables enable every cottager to keep a pig. The pork of this pig, and bread, and sometimes the latter only, constitutes their food. Milk or beer, except at the farm or the ale-house, they never taste. The usual beverage, in which all indulge, is coarse, low-priced tea, often without sugar, always without milk.

The women perform very little outdoor labour of any kind, and attempt nothing beyond a little weeding or stone picking; so that they add very little to the earnings of the husband. Even within doors the use of the wheel or the knitting needles is totally unknown. This leisure, however, has one good effect, it makes the mothers better and more wholesome nurses, and induces them to keep themselves and children clean and tight, and contributes greatly to the healthy and good looks universally met with.

The antient inhabitants of this village, like their neighbours of the Undercliff, owing to a secluded situation, were of a peculiar character. Their rough, unpolished manners, and language (they still retain several corrupted French words) long preserved a striking resemblance of their Norman progenitors. Yet this want of polish seems to have been compensated by an honest simplicity. Often offensively rude and unaccommodating to strangers, to each other they were kind and hospitable in a highly meritorious degree. It was the practice to club their strength in husbandry, giving and receiving reciprocal assistance at seed-time and harvest; and wherever in seasons of festivity and relaxation,

[1] Bagot, *Links with the Past,* p. 221.

the cask of home brewed beer was tapt, that house was the assembly-room of the evening. The village musician, and the group of set dancers, selected from the youth of both sexes, had a place in their rustic mirth; and separated from the great world, and even from Newport in a certain degree (to which place there was then no carriage road) the new fashions of the shop were unknown, and the only arbiter of dress and ornament was the travelling pedlar. Under such circumstances, the manners, the appearance, and mode of life of these secreted villagers, could not fail of being strongly tinctured with the cast of originality.

Every family was in possession of a small bargain, and though none were rich, none were poor, every man laboured and his labour supported him, the degrading appellation of pauper was then unknown.

Such were the Crab-Nitoners (so called, perhaps, from the uncivilized manners towards all who were not of their own village) of times more antient. At present they are an altered race and every day alter more and more. The bargains fall progressively into fewer hands, and of course by decreasing the number of occupiers of land increase the number of cottagers. The influx, too, of summer visitors has imported the knowledge of the distinction due to wealth and figure, so that every well-dressed person, supposed to be able to pay the purchase, is sure of a bow or a curtsey, and the young descendants of the formerly sturdy rustic now run eagerly to open a gate, and crouch for the precarious halfpenny.

Whether the antient or the modern manners of the peasantry be preferable, whether a blunt independence, or an interested obedience, will make the laborious class of mankind more respectable, or better adapted to that rank it is to fill, and is most likely to be productive of the greater portion of individual happiness and public utility, may be a matter of speculative discussion; but of the sad consequences of consorting soldiers with peasants, idleness with industry, unthriftiness with frugality, there can but exist one opinion. This heterogeneous mixture, in which always the bad will be most buoyant, has been most deplorably visible since the necessity of the times has doomed Niton to become an (military) outpost. Those harmless and delighted travellers, called *Felicity Hunters*, who have quitted their shops in Cheapside to drive post over the country, were they ten times as numerous, passing through, or stopping at the inn of the village, can never subvert the simple manners of the peasantry (its greatest ornament and happiness) like a succession of soldiery from every regiment in the service. If this village longer retained its native and characteristic manners than almost every other in the kingdom, owing to this last circumstance, none is more rapidly deviating from them. Whenever peace shall be re-established, much time, vigilance, and authority will be requisite to bring it back to the point of morals, sobriety, and industry, it stood at previously to the establishment of the military out-posts."

The allusions made to the military outposts established at Niton arose from the great fear of a French invasion, causing the erection of temporary barracks for the accommodation of soldiers. Niton, in conjunction with Whitwell, owned two companies of volunteers, one of 66 men and the other of 50. The officers of the Artillery Corps, holding commissions signed by the King, being Captain John Kirkpatrick, Lieut. Patrick Griffin; the names of those attached to the Volunteers were: Captain Robert Cole, Lieut. Thomas Hardley, and Ensign James Haynes. The companies were mustered and exercised every Sunday.

Of the Subsidy Rolls.

These rolls are ofttimes of service as supplying the names of the earlier inhabitants of a parish. No mention of Niton occurs in the earliest of these rolls—1 Edward III—and the reason for the omission does not appear.

In the Parliament held at Westminster on Monday next after the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 17th, 1334), a subsidy was granted to the King, on account of the expenses caused by the war in Scotland, the Barons and Knights of the Shire giving him a 1-15th, as the Citizens and Burgesses did a tenth :—

"Insula Vecta."				
(*inter alia.*)	Nywetone	vj li	ij s	vij d
	Godeshulle & Stenebʳy		lxx s	
	Whytewelle	iv li		ij d
	Wroxhale	vj li	iij s	
	Wathe & Netelcombe		lxij s	viij d

(Excerpt from a Register of the Abbey of Tichfield . . . compiled in the reign of Richard II, now in the possession of the Duke of Portland.)[1]

Lay Subsidy Roll, 173-243, 36 Henry VIII (1545), money granted "towards the maintenance of the King Majesty's warres" furnishes the following list of resident householders :—

Nyton.

Agnes Howlbeck	viij s̃	
Richard Downer	xv s̃	
Alice Edes (widow)	viij s̃	
Thomas Payen	ix s̃	
Alice Edes (junior)	x s̃	
Isabell Orchard	v s̃	
Elizaunder Brown	iij s̃	iiij đ
William Blo	vj s̃	viij đ
John Pyttes	v s̃	
William Waterford (Parson there)	xiij s̃	iiij đ
Leonard Wardrop (Priest there)	v s̃	
Summa	iv li viij s̃	iv đ

The name of Howlbeck does not appear in the parochial records. The "Downer" family were prominently associated with the parish; the Richard mentioned in the above aid held office as churchwarden in 1553. The marriages of John Downer and Alice Blow, of Richard and Julian Burgess, and of John and Joane Harvey, in 1594, are recorded in the church registers. With the marriage of Elizabeth, in June, 1679, the entries having the surname Downer cease. John Downer succeeded his father in his tenure as a copyholder in Niton manor in 1602. As recently as 1800 another Downer is mentioned as occupier of land, "late his father's," here.

The "Edes" family hold the foremost place as early residents. John Ede held office as provost of the manor, *temp.* Henry VII (1488), an office held by descendants in the ensuing reign. In 1536 Richard Yeds—"Edes"—name appears in the inventory of church goods as churchwarden. The marriage of Richard Edes and Annis Blow is recorded in 1574, and William, the son, succeeded to the tenancy of Edes farm in 1601, leaving two sons, Peter and Philip, to follow. No later mention of the family can be traced.

The "Orchard" family, from the frequent recurrence of the surname, call for special mention. Three brothers held Mirables in 1426. Robert Orchard is summoned before the Court Leet in 1462, and fined

[1] *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*, vol. i, p. 175.

"for obstructing the King's highway" there. Will and Thomas Orchard are entered as "customary tenants" in the manorial survey in 1606. The marriages of twenty-six persons with this surname are entered in the church register between 1564 and 1749 The name then ceases to appear in the village annals.

Members belonging to the "Payne" family do not recur in any of the rolls, lists, or registers.

A family having the surname of "Blo," "Blow," or "Blowe," are found as parishioners prior to 1545. The name of "Leonarde Blow" appears in the later Aid of 1597. Ten marriages of persons with the surname are recorded in the Niton register between 1545 and 1611, none being entered later. The Whitwell register records the marriages of William Blow in 1736, of James in 1776, and, in the neighbouring parish of St. Lawrence, one "Richard Blo" was churchwarden in 1547.

The "Pettis," "Pyttis," or "Pittis" family were long identified with Niton parish. The first marriage entered in the church register is that of Annis Pettis and John Edwardes, November, 1561, and the alliances of seventeen members, prior to 1711, are subsequently entered. After this date the entries, with this surname, cease. A rector of Niton —Richard Pittis, son of Thomas and Dorothie Lavender, was born here, and Dr. Thomas Pettis, rector of Gatcombe, in 1662, and of St. Botolph's, London, was also a native, and is interred in the chancel of the parish church. In the later Subsidy Rolls of Elizabeth, in 1597, and of Charles I in 1642, the names of Pettis appear on the assessment lists. Thomas Pettis was a copyholder, Niton manor, 1606. It may be mentioned here that Mathewe Arnold, whose name, as an early passive resister to tithe payments, is entered on the parochial records, married Mary Pittis in 1685, and a namesake of his took Miss Elizabeth Pittis to wife in 1703.

The Subsidy Roll, 174-433, 39 Elizabeth (1597), names the following residents :—

Nyton.

		li			*s*	*d*
Walter Haywarde - - -	in goodes	iiij	-	Subsidy	x	viij
Johanne Edes, widow - -	„	iiij	-	„	x	viij
Willm̃ Spanner - - -	„	iiij	-	„	x	viij
Thomas Pettice - - -	„	iiij	-	„	x	viij
Willm̃ Hawle - - -	„	vj	-	„	xvj	
Phillip Pettise - - -	„	iij	-	„	viij	
John Hawle - - - -	„	vj	-	„	xvj	
Willm̃ Howe - -	„	v	-	„	xiij	iiij
Leonarde Blowe - - -	„	v	-	„	xiij	iiij

Summa cix*s.* iiij*d.*

The "Hawarde" or "Haywarde" family, having a representative on the Roll, were early identified with the Niton parish. The first mention of the name, probably that of a resident member, is "Reginalde Haywarde," one of the local jurors at the inquiry held in 1354, at Newport, in *re* "the manor of Stenbury." The marriages of Water in 1562; Alice, 1564; Water, 1571; Joane, 1588; Richard, 1598; and of

Daniel to Charity Brent, 1609, are entered in the Niton register. The last-named member was a copyholder in the tenancy of "Buddle" farm in 1608, as successor to Walter, whose name appeared on the Roll in 1597. "Widdowe Hayward" is assessed in a later Roll, and with the marriage of William in 1709 the name ceases to be mentioned in parish records.

The Subsidy Roll, 175-545, 17 Carolus I (1642), mentions the following names :—

Nighton.

	li	*s*	*d*		*li*	*s*	*d*
Langhorne, Cler.	iij	v	vj	Thomas Pettis	iij	vj	
Widd. Hayward	xj	x		Richard Mount	vj	ij	
Thomas Treford	vj	ij		Robert Urrey	xiij	iiij	
John Gang	iiij	vij		Ann Goter	ix	ix	
Widd. Collins	v	j		John Harvey	xv	v	
James House	x	ix		Mathewe Arnold	j	v	viij
John Downer	ij	vj		John Mackett	xvij	xj	
Widd. Goter	vij	xj		Jacob Orchard	vj	vij	
Daniell Whithed	iij	x		Henry Combs	viij	iij	
John Lovell	ix	ij		John Renolds	iiij	vij	
Henry Pittis	vij	vj		Will' & Geo. Jobson	vij	ij	
Richard Reynolds	v			Willia' Newnam	ij	vj	
Daniell Nutkins	iij			Anthony Orchard	v	vij	
William Downer	iiij	x		Willia' Ducker	iij	iiij	
(And 15 others.)				Summa xix*li.*			

William Newman mentioned in the list was probably a member of the family of that name, holding estates in Whitwell and Chale. In June, 1659, the marriage of William Newnham, of Chale, and Ann Pittis, of Niton, is recorded in the church register.

The "Harvey" family, long time resident in the district, call for notice. Twenty-eight persons with the surname, belonging to the village of Niton, were married here between 1574 and 1799. "John Harvey, junior," held by "copy," in 1595, a tenement called South Place, and described "late John Harvey, his father's, *et Harvye's ex antiquo.*" In 1602, John Harvey, possibly a near relation, held Puckaster Farm. Other family surnames recur in the parish and church records, and may briefly be mentioned, *e.g.*, "Cheek" occurs seven times, between 1597-1785; "How" seven times, 1585-1635; "Reynolds" five times, 1562-1603; "Abraham" four times, 1580-1609; "Stone" four times, 1619-1805. The foregoing surnames do not recur later.

Of the Rectors of Niton.

The connection between the livings of Niton, Whitwell, and Godshill is so involved that it is difficult to furnish a satisfactory list of the clergy of the several parishes. The earliest rector that has been traced is mentioned in a Patent Roll, 13 Henry III, as follows :—

A.D. 1228. "Johannes Gaignard, clericus. De presentatione Savarici de Malo Leone habet litteras directas officiali Wintoniensis de presentatione ad ecclesiam de Neuton que vacat"—adding, "In the King's gift by reason of the custody of Baldwin, the heir of the lord of the island, being in the King's hands. Witnessed by the King at Westminster."[1]

[1] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 13 Hen. III.

A.D. 1294. "Master Peter de Avebury, canon of the church of Wells, parson of the churches of Godeshull and Neuton, in the Isle of Wight. Protection with clause volumus for one year." [1]

,, 1297. "Hugh, parson of the church of Neweton. Protection granted by testimony of Henry Tyeys." [2]

,, 1305. "Robert de Wylington, parson of the church of Neuton, in the Isle of Wight. Simple protection for one year, going beyond the seas." [3]

,, 1305. "William of Tours held the living in conjunction with the livings of Arreton and Chale."

(His conduct was so reprehensible that an enquiry was held and the rector found guilty of various malpractices. At the time of his death, *circa* 1310, various books and ornaments were reported missing from the church).

,, 1310. Robert de Madewell, inst. rector, on the death of William of Tours.

No date. William de Redenesse, rector, date of collation unknown.

A.D. 1374. "Walter Hereman, priest, rector of Asshe, inst. rector, to church of Nytone, vice William de Redenesse, who exchanges. Patron, the King, the temporals in England of the abbey of Lyre being in his hands on account of the war with France." [4]

,, 1381. "Nicholas Burgh, chaplain, inst. rector, to church of Nytone. Patron, the King, the temporals of Carisbrooke priory being in his hands on account of the war with France." [5]

Nicholas Burgh was Dean of the Isle of Wight for some years. In conjunction with the rector of Arreton he acted as an executor and a residuary legatee of Simon, Bishop of Anchonry, suffragan bishop of the diocese, a native of the Isle of Wight, who died in 1397, and was buried before the high altar at Quarr Abbey. He gave "to M. Nicholas his girdle of silk with silver gilt spangles," etc. The custody of Barton Oratory was committed, in 1394, by the Bishop to the joint care of Nicholas Burgh, of Niton, and William Smyth, vicar of Brading. William Love, the archpriest of the Oratory, a dissolute priest, was taken prisoner by the French in 1388. He escaped, or was released, soon afterwards, got into debt, and became a prisoner in the Fleet. A commission was directed to the abbot of Quarr and to the rector of Niton in 1403, to inquire into grave charges preferred against him. . . .

A.D. 1404. "dominus Thomas Lentwardyn, vicar of Preshute, co. Wilts, inst. rector, to church of Nytone, I. of W. in exchange with Nicholas Burgh. Patron, the King." [6]

("Such priests as have the addition of 'Sir' (dominus) before their Christian name were not graduated at the University—being in orders but not in degrees, whilst others called masters had commenced in the arts.") [7]

,, 1500. "William Hutton, rector, date of collation has not been traced.

(The name entered in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus,* Vol. 2, p. 25, is "Watson," and there is a reference to him in the Archdeacon's Visitation, at Newport, in 1543).

[1] *Cal. Pat. R.*, Edw. I, 1292—1301.
[2] *Ibid.*
[3] *Ibid.*, 1301—1307.
[4] *Wykeham's Reg.*, vol. i, p. 59 (H. Rec. Soc.).
[5] *Ibid.*, p. 117.
[6] *Ibid.*, p. 244.
[7] *Ibid.*, p. 7.

A.D. 1545. William Waterford, rector.

(In the Lay Subsidy Roll, 36 Henry VIII (1545), the names of two rectors are entered on the assessment list—William Waterford (Parson there), Leonard Wardrop (Priest there).

,, 1578. "John Horden, rector. Patron, the Queen Majtie."

("Student of Christ Church, Oxford, 1564; B.A. 1568; M.A. 1572; sup. for licence to preach, 1577."[1] Edward Horden, of New College, Oxford, vicar of Godshill with Whitwell, I.W. 1617, was possibly a son of his. The marriage of John Horden to Joane Pyttis is recorded in 1613 in the Niton register.)

,, 1604. John Lorde, rector. Date of institution not known.

(John Worsley, of Appuldurcombe, left "two pounds for a ring to Mr. John Lorde, parson, of Niton," in 1604.)

,, 1628. George Vernon, rector.

(Son of George, of Davenham, Cheshire, pleb. Pembroke College, matric. Feb., 1625-6, aged 30).

,, 1630. John Langhorne, inst. rector.

("of Westmorland, pleb. Queen's College, matric. 1603, aged 19; B.A. 1608; M.A. 1611; B.D. 1619; rector of Niton, I.W. 1630.")[2]

References to the rector are found in *Domestic State Papers* under date 18th June, 1655:—"John Langhorne to Williamson, Queen's College. I have written to your scholar and shall send him a horse. Before he leaves you I will give him some satisfaction, though far below the pains you have taken." Writing from Niton, October 4th, 1655, Langhorne says:—"I return your scholar as he came, for I had no time to take pains with him. Crackenthorpe's logic would suit him best; if he had books to furnish him with arguments, if he could manage them. Take pains with his logic and Greek philosophy and rhetoric will soon follow. I find in my scholars that those who go back in logic do not go forward in other things." Sir Joseph Williamson, to whom the rector wrote, was a Fellow of Queen's, and afterwards rose to be Secretary of State, serving as the English plenipotentiary at Nimeguen in 1679, and at Ryswick in 1696. His life is given in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. The name of Mr. John Langhorne is mentioned as "incumbent" in the return made by the jurors to the Commission of the Lord Protector (1653-8), from which the following extract is taken:—"Mr. Garth, assistant, supplying the cure, hath Thirty pounds by the Yere for his salary. Nighton Parsonage valued at one Hundred and Five pounds by the Yere. The Parish lyeth neare togethor, within a mile distant from the church."

No date. "Richard Pittis, minister."

("Richard Pittis, pleb. Magdalen Hall, matric. 1656; B.A. from Lincoln College, 1658; M.A. 1661; rector of Yaverland, I.W. 1662."[3] His burial is recorded in the church register, A.D. 1670).

A.D. 1670. Thomas Collinson, inst. rector.

(Son of Peter, of Staveley, Westmorland, pleb. Queen's College, matric. 1647, aged 17, taborder 1648; B.A. 1650; fellow 1651; M.A. 1653.")[4]

[1] J. Foster, *Al. Oxon.*, vol. ii, p. 745.
[2] *Ibid.*, vol. iii, p. 878.
[3] Foster, *Alum. Oxon.*, vol. i, p. 311.
[4] *Ibid.*, vol. iv, p. 1477.

This rector is said to have been deprived of his benefice and much reduced in circumstances. At the restoration he returned, and traditionally, is said to have entertained king Charles II for the two days following his landing at Puckaster Cove.

"And then, turning to old Collinson,
He said, how he 'full well knew'
That his deeds of faithful loyalty
Had been neither small, nor few.

Of devoted service to his King
Would he add one further proof?
Would he receive him as his guest
Under the rectory roof?"—*Isle of Wight Ballads.*

He held the living for the long period of 58 years, and, dying in his 89th year, was interred in the chancel of the parish church. The memorial slab was moved, at the 1864 restoration, to the south aisle.

A.D. 1716. John Thomson, inst. rector, on the death of Mr. Collinson.
("Son of T. of Milkin Thorpe, Westmorland, Queen's College, matric. 1691, aged 17, B.A. 1695; M.A. 1698.")[1]

In December, 1735, the livings of Godshill and Whitwell were annexed and consolidated with Niton by Benjamin, Bishop of Winchester, and, until 1867, the duty in the conjoined parishes was performed by curates. One of the village lanes travelled by the Niton rectors, in their journeyings to and from the services at Godshill on mule-back, is still known as "Mule Lane" from this circumstance.

A.D. 1736. William Thornton, inst. on the death of the late rector.
("Son of Christopher, of Musgrave, Westmorland, cler. Queen's College, matric. 1716, aged 18, B.A. 1720; M.A. 1723.")[2]

,, 1751. William Wood. F.S.A., inst. on the death of the late rector.
("Son of William, of Penrith, Cumberland, pleb. Queen's College, matric. 1725, aged 17, boteler 1725, taborder 1730, B.A. 1730, fellow 1741.")[3]

,, 1761. Isaac Knipe, rector.[4]
("Son of John, of Flodder, Westmoreland, pleb. Queen's College, matric. Oct. 1735, aged 17, B.A. 1741, M.A. 1744.")[5]

,, 1786. John Barwis, inst. rector.
(Mr. Barwis took an active and prominent part in island matters, and for some years presided as chairman of the bench of magistrates. It is traditionally said, if any of the Niton parishioners were found to be idle and dissolute, they soon disappeared from the village under the auspices of the "press gang" of the day. It is said with the connivance and at the instigation of the worthy rector, though as to the truth thereof no evidence is forthcoming.)

,, 1828. Richard Dixon, F.R.S., inst. rector, on the death of the incumbent.
("Son of Joshua, of Whitehaven, Cumberland, gent. Queen's College, matric. 1796, age 16, B.A. 1799, M.A. 1803, and fellow till 1829, tutor 1822.")[6]

[1] J. Foster, *Al. Oxon.*, vol. iv, p. 1477.
[2] *Ibid.*, p. 1415.
[3] *Ibid.*, p. 1600.
[4] *Hamp. Repository*, publ. 1801.
[5] J. Foster, *Al. Oxon.*, vol. ii, p. 804.
[6] *Ibid.*, vol. i, p. 373.

A.D. 1859. George Hayton, inst. rector.
("Son of Joseph, of Outerside, near Aspatria, Cumberland, gent. Queen's College, matric. June, 1849, aged 18, taberdar 1850, B.A. 1853, fellow 1855-8, M.A. 1856, rector of Niton 1858-84.")[1]

,, 1873. George Wynne Jeudwine, inst. rector.
("Son of George, of Kensington, Middlesex, arm, Corpus Christi Coll., matric. Oct., 1866, aged 17, scholar 1866-70, fellow of Queen's Coll. 1870-6, M.A. 1873, math. lecturer Keble College 1871-2, rector of Niton 1884-9.")[2]

,, 1893. William Sells, inst. the present rector.

A list of the curates of Niton, Whitwell, and Godshill, as far as they can be traced :—

A.D. 1734. The appointment of a scholar of Queen's College, as curate to Godshill church, is recorded in the register. No name entered.
,, 1743. Thomas Wight.
,, 1745. William Sewell ("son of Thomas, of Coomb Row, Cumberland, pleb. Queen's College; M.A., 1745; fellow, 1753; rector of Headley, Hants, 1765").[3]
,, 1754. William Hodgson.
,, 1763. Thomas Andrews, fellow of Queen's College, M.A.
? William Haygarth, of Kendal, Westmorland; M.A., 1729.[8]
,, 1766. Allan Bracken ("of Seelsmere, Westmorland; pleb. Queen's College; M.A., 1765; B. and D.D., 1797; schoolmaster at Godshill, 1766-77).[4]
,, 1778. John Prince.
,, Daniel Walsh (also curate of Godshill, 1757-83).
,, 1780. John Lancaster (curate of Niton, 1781, of Godshill, 1800, and rector of St. Lawrence, 1808-12).
,, 1798. John Morsop.
,, 1813. Henry Worsley, LL.B. (incumbent of Yarmouth, 1798-1804, and rector of Gatcombe and St. Lawrence), ob. 1844.[5]
,, 1823. R. Oakman (son of Wm.; matric., 1817; B.A., 1822; ob. 1845; æt. 55).[6]
,, 1853. W. Wilkinson.
,, ,, Julian Charles Young (rect. of Southwick, Sussex, 1844-58).[7]
,, 1836. John Harnall.
,, 1846. W. L. Giradot.
,, 1848. G. A. Oldham.
,, 1852. E. J. Maskery.
,, 1853. T. Ratcliffe (vicar of Godshill, 1867).
,, 1863. R. B. Oliver (rector of Whitwell, 1867).
,, 1866. R. Hawthorne.

The Parochial Registers.

In England parish registers were unknown till the reign of Henry III, when the duty of keeping them was imposed upon the parochial clergy,

[1] J. Foster, *Al. Oxon.*, vol. ii, p. 635.
[2] *Ibid.*, p. 753.
[3] *Ibid.*, vol iv, p. 1275.
[4] *Ibid.*, vol. iii, p. 1143.
[5] *Ibid.*, vol. iv, p. 1610.
[6] *Ibid.*, vol. iii, p. 1035.
[7] *Ibid.*, vol. iv, p. 1631.
[8] *Ibid.*, vol. ii, p. 634.

and, except during the time of the Commonwealth, the Registers were an ecclesiastical and not a parliamentary institution.

It was in September, 1538, that Thomas Cromwell, Vicar-General, issued his Injunctions, the 12th reading thus :—

"Item, that you, and every parson, vicar or curate within this Diocese, shall for every church keep one book or register, wherein ye shall write the day and year of every wedding, christening and burying made within your parish for your time. . . . ."

The Niton registers date back to 1559, the commencement of Queen Elizabeth's reign, and are amongst the earliest kept in the Island. The Brading registers are dated 1547, those of Brixton 1566, and of Carisbrooke 1572.

The entries of Births, Marriages, and Burials were in all cases made at first in paper books. In the time of James I (1597) an injunction was passed that :—

"In every Parish Church and Chapel within this Realm shall be provided one parchment book at the charge of the parish wherein shall be written, etc., etc."

The earlier entries had thus to be transcribed upon parchment and certified, so that down to the year above mentioned the entries are all found to be in the same handwriting and style, being official copies of the previously existing registers in accordance with the injunction. From 1599 the entries are made by persons of very varied degrees of education, and in handwriting, ranging from absolute clearness to the opposite extreme. Consequently the entries are often extremely ill-written and badly spelt. The delay to make entries in the early registers, leaving it optional with the clerks to make rough notes for future entry, will account for the irregularities, etc., in so many instances.

By the courtesy of the Rev. W. Sells, the rector, I have seen an interesting series of Notes, connected with the church registers, that have appeared in the Niton Parish Magazine at intervals from the year 1888 onwards. It is from these communications that some of the local information connected with the parish registers has been gleaned for this book. Prior to 1813 the Niton records are contained in four volumes.

The first volume consists of twenty-two sheets of parchment, and covers the period from 1559 to 1653, containing the baptisms and burials from 1559 to 1653, and the marriages from 1561 to 1641.

Amongst the Christian names of children baptised at this period the favourite name for girls was evidently Dousabell, which occurs eleven times. Other names, now out of fashion, were Ursula, Judith, Joane, and Sybill. The changes in the use of Christian names are perhaps better shown by a comparative table of two periods in the 16th and 18th century, culled from the marriage register, the names arranged alphabetically :—

Female Names.

Sixteenth Century (1561—1611)	No.
Alice	16
Alse	1
Anne 1	2
Annie 1	
Annis	17
Charity	1
Cicely	1
Dorothie, 2; Dorothy, 1	3
Dousabell	1
Edith	2
Elinor	4
Elisabeth	15
Frances	1
Grace	2
Ide	1
Isabell	1
Jeane, 1; Jhane, 12	13
Joan, 1; Joane, 9	10
Judith	1
Julian	1
Katherin	1
Lettis	1
Margret, 1; Margaret, 1; Margerett, 1	3
Mary	3
Maude	1
Rebecca	2
Sara	1
Susan	1
Sybell	1
Ursula	1
Total	108

In all twenty-nine names.

Eighteenth Century (1762—1812)	No.
Alice	1
Ann 4	7
Anne 3	
Betty	3
Catherine	1
Charity	1
Deborah	1
Eleanor	1
Elizabeth	17
Frances	2
Hannah	15
Helen	1
Innocent	1
Jane, 13; Jean, 1; Jenny, 1	15
Margaret	1
Maria	1
Martha	5
Mary	14
Rachael	1
Rebecca	4
Sarah	15
Susanna	1
Total	108

In all twenty-one names.

A similar analysis of the men's Christian names for the same period of time follows :—

Sixteenth Century (1561—1611)	No.
Andrew	1
Anthony	3
Daniel	2
Edward	1
Enock	1

Eighteenth Century (1762—1812)	No.
Abraham	1
Andrew	1
Barnabas	1
Benjamin	1
David	5
Dennis	1
Edward	3
Emanuel	1

Sixteenth Century (1561—1611)	No.
George	3
Henry	4
James	2
Jeremy	1
John	29
Laurence	1
Leonard	4
Markes	1
Nathaniel	1
Nicholas	1
Philip	1
Rafe, 1; Ralph, 1	2
Richard	15
Robert	6
Thomas	10
Water	5
William	15
Total	108

Twenty-two names in all.

Eighteenth Century (1762—1812)	No.
George	1
Isaac	1
James	21
Jeremiah	1
Joab	1
John	23
Jonathan	1
Michael	1
Osmond	1
Peter	2
Richard	1
Robert	3
Stephen	1
Thomas	12
Titus	1
William	22
Woodman	1
Total	108

Twenty-five names in all.

The second volume, also of parchment, extends from 1635 to 1741. There is a gap in the marriages from 1641 to 1654, doubtless occasioned by the Civil War between the King and the Parliament. From 1654 to 1660, in accordance with the Act passed by the "Parliament of Saints," otherwise the "Praise God Barebone Parliament," marriages were to be performed by Justices of the Peace and not by the minister. Marriage was divested of its religious character; the clergy had to give up their register books, and the duty of performing it was transferred to the Civil Magistrates, or to Laymen who were called Parish Registers (now Registrars), elected by the inhabitant householders. After September, 1654, it was ordered:—

"That no marriage was to be celebrated without the Register's certificate that he had published *the Banns* on three successive Lord's Days, at the close of the 'morning exercise' in the public meeting place, commonly called the Church or Chapel; or, if the parties preferred it, in the nearest market place on three successive market days."

The third volume, of fine sheets of parchment, is bound, and contains the entries from 1736 to 1754. In 1753 Lord Hardwicke's Act was passed "for the better preventing Clandestine Marriages." The Act declared all marriages solemnised after March, 1754, unless by licence or banns, to be void.

The fourth volume is a book containing Banns of Marriages and Marriages solemnised from 1754 to 1812.

The entries of 149 marriages are contained in the first volume, 104 in the second, 15 in the third, and 132 in the last volume, a total of 400 marriages celebrated in two and a half centuries. The first marriage by licence was in 1737, both parties being extra-parochial. The only double names entered are those of Sarah Talbot Saunders in 1788, and Anne Maria Grant in 1803. From the year 1659 onwards the name of the parish is first noted, and a scrutiny of the register shows that 58—46 men, 12 women—were non-resident, four coming from Chale; 12, Whitwell; 14, Godshill; 5, Newchurch; 3, Newport and Arreton; 2, Brading, Brixton, Roude, Gatcombe, and Carisbrooke; and one from St. Lawrence, Shorwell, Calbourne, and Kingston.

In the year 1812 an important change took place :—

"All future registers were ordered to be kept in books to be provided by the King's printers according to one uniform scheme."

During the incumbency of the Rev. J. Thomson an interesting record as to the parish tithes is entered. It was customary in early Saxon times to allot the tenth part of the profits of land and stock, together with the personal industry of the inhabitants, as tithes for the clergy for their support. The agreement as to the tithes that existed in most parishes at this period would run much as follows, and is not without interest to lay readers in the present day :—

That whereas within the said parish, there is, and from time out of memory hath bene such laudable and ancient custom and manner of tithing following, for the tithes within the parishes aforesaid, to wit :—

(*a*) of Wool, the tenth fleece, or the tenth part in weight.

(*b*) of Hay, the tenth cock, of the first little cock out of the meadow grass, of barley, oats, peas, and vetches—to lay out for the rector the tenth cock thereof.

(*c*) of Calves, every person having any calf or calves out of his cows in any one year.

If the number be under seven the farmer shall pay one halfpenny for each calf.

If seven, he shall pay the rector one calf and receive three-halfpence.

If eight, shall pay the rector one calf, and receive one penny.

If nine, shall pay the rector one calf, and receive one halfpenny.

If ten, shall pay the rector the tenth calf.

If any calves be sold, shall pay the rector the tenth penny of the price of every calf so sold.

If any calf be killed, shall pay the rector the right shoulder of every calf so slain.

(*d*) of Lambs, any number under seven—a halfpenny for every lamb.

If seven, shall deliver to the rector one lamb, and receive three-halfpence; and so on as in the former instance.

(*e*) of Pigs. (The conditions were identically the same.)

(*f*) of Geese, shall pay one farthing for every one under seven.

(*g*) of Bees and Honey, any person having any bees, shall pay—for every swarm under seven—to the rector one penny.

If seven, shall pay one swarm and receive three pence.

If eight, shall pay one swarm and receive two pence.

If nine, shall pay one swarm and receive one penny.

If ten, shall deliver one swarm of bees hived.

(*h*) of Cow's Milk, every person keeping any milch cows, shall pay to the rector one penny for every cow, if such cow hath a calf then one halfpenny, and likewise for every heifer of the first calves one halfpenny: and so on in full payment, satisfaction, and discharge.

Mr. Thomson's entry in the Register commences in the year 1716 as follows:—

"I took all things as my predecessor had done. I demanded for the milk of each cow, one shilling, and for the milk of each heifer, sixpence, and the Tythe calf where one was due, and the tenth penny for every one sold or killed, where a whole calf was not due. All paid this except Matthew Arnold (probably a descendant of 'Mathewe Arnold,' whose name is entered on the Lay Subsidy Rolls for 1627 and 1642), who would have had his milk and calf too for one shilling, etc., as above; which I would not allow off; and so I took his calf in kind, and nine meals of milk; and at the last time of milking I declared before his servants and my own at the Cross before the Church where the cows were milked, that I took the nine meals only in part for that year, and the next year should take every tenth meal entire, while his cows produced any milk.

"1718.—I agreed with all except Matthew Arnold, for one shilling for each cow as above: and took a calf where due, or money as before. Matthew Arnold refusing to agree, I took every tenth meal entire from Lady day to Michaelmas, and might have taken it all the time his cows produced milk.

"1719.—I agreed with all as above, except Matthew Arnold; whom for taking my milk without any agreement, and for refusing to make any manner of satisfaction for it, I cited into the Court of Winton."

The remainder of the page is wanting, so that we possess no clue as to the result. The index to the Exchequer Decrees, from 1719 to 1725, inclusive, and the Bills and answers (Exchequer), during the reign of George I, under the county of Southampton, have been searched without finding any reference to the case. The question was apparently taken before the Winchester Court of Assizes, and was not carried higher by writ of certiorari. The sheet is endorsed:—

"These few notes and memorandums are left by the Rev. Mr. Collinson and the Rev. Mr. Thomson, formerly Rectors of the Parish of Niton, and they are preserv'd and inserted here for the Benefit and Inspection of future rectors by the present curate (J. Price) of this Parish."

Another interesting feature recorded in the registers, between 1670 and 1706, is a reference to the collections known as "Church Briefs." An earlier reference (on page 146) to a brief at Wroxall has been made. The "briefs" were Letters Patent issued by the Crown to be read to the congregation in church during divine service following the Nicene Creed, and authorising a public collection of money to be made in churches, and from house to house, in favour of the charitable object for which the grant was issued, such as defraying the cost of damage by fire, flood, or tempest, to the fabric of churches, etc. The entries are five and twenty in number. Of these twelve are for persons who had suffered loss by fire, which in those days of timber building and narrow streets must have been more frequent than now, and have spread more rapidly before it was got under. Three of the collections are for the redemption of English captives taken by the Turks in Algiers and Morocco, "held in miserable slavery, and solde from party to party, and kept in chaines of iron, etc." Two are for the relief of distressed French Protestants

[1] *The Crondal Records*, p. 386 (H. Rec. Soc.).

who had fled from their own country and had taken refuge in England, and one is for the re-building of St. Paul's Cathedral, the largest collection "being the summe of £3. 15*s*. 9*d*. towards the redemption of poor Christian slaves in Algiers, whose redemption did come to £30,000 as by ye Brief appeared." The following are samples of entries copied from the register :—

A.D. 1670. "Decembr. the eighteenth, collected then in the parish of Nighton the summe of Three pounds, fifteen shillings and nine-pence towards the Redemption of poor Xtian slaves in Algiers. The aforesaid summe was paid in to ye Arch Deacon."

,, 1674. "April ye 11th—as above—for ye relief of ye Inhabitants of St. Katherine's, in London, who were great sufferers by a sudden fire . . . . five shillings."

,, 1681-2. "Jany. ye 6th. Collected then in ye parish of Niton in ye Isle of Wight the summe of one pound eighteen shillings for aid towards ye Relief of ye poor distressed French Protestants who are fled hither for refuge."

On the fly leaf of the register, from which these extracts have been taken, is the oft-quoted reference to the landing of King Charles II :—

"In perpetuam Rei Memoriam—July the first, Anno Domini, 1675—Charles the Second, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, etc., came safely ashoar at Puckester, after he had endured a great and dangerous storm at sea; Ut regnet diu feliciter Vovit et exoptat. Thomas Collinson, Rector de Nighton.

("That he may reign long and happily, Thomas Collinson prays and ardently desires").

There is another notice :—

"In perpetuam beneficii memoriam :—June 10th, 1712. Mr. Thomas Penney, a native of this place, now citizen of London, bestow'd on us a very riche cloath and cushion for our pulpit; to prevent the forgetfulness of which generous gift we have left it here upon record."

In 1758 the Register of Baptisms is closed with the following attempt at a couplet, which, if not very poetical, is at least pathetic :—

"To convert Crab Nitoners! oh, who can?
'Tis infinitely beyond the art of man."

A commentary on the foregoing lines is furnished in a remark made by Albin some forty years later :—"The parish contains no meeting house whatever of any description or denomination, and all the Parishioners are of the Church of England."[1]

OF NITON CHURCH.

The church is of great antiquity, and stands near the centre of the quiet village of Niton, at the junction of two roads leading over St. Catherine's Down to the village of Chale.

The church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and was one of the six unspecified churches—shown by later evidence—to have been given by William Fitz Osbern to the Norman abbey of Lyra. The gift was made after 1066, and prior to his death in 1071. Tithes payable to the abbey of Lyra, found mentioned in the Carisbrooke chartulary,[2] are taken

[1] Albin's *Hist. I. W.*, p. 577. [2] W., *Hist. I. W.*, p. 153.

Photo by] [H. B. Bacon.

Niton Church, I.W., 1910.

as evidence that the manors were held by him before his fief, by forfeiture, had passed into the king's hands. He further endowed Lyra with the tithes of all rents received by him as lord of the Isle of Wight.

The Confirmation charter of Henry II (1154-1189) refers to the tithes, but the references are given in fuller detail in a charter of William de Vernon to the monks of Lyra :—

"Be it known to all present and to come, that I, William earl of Devon, and Lord of the Isle of Wight, have given, and by this my present charter, and seal, confirmed for the salvation of my soul, and of all my parentage and friends, to God, and the Blessed Mary of Lyra, and to the Monks of the same place, all their free alms and benefices, etc. To have and To hold the same, *viz.*, with (*inter alia*) the church of Niweton with all things to the same belonging. And all tithes of my Lordships in the Island which are known to belong to the same Monks (that is to say) and of Underwath, in corn, and wool, and cheese, and lambs, and churchscot, and pigs, and all things whereof tithes ought to be exacted and of the tithes of the demesnes of the Lordships of Niweton . . . and in the desmesnes of Niton, 3 shillings, etc."[2]

As an alien foundation the church passed to the Crown, time of Edward III. On the suppression of the alien monasteries, in Henry V's reign, the advowson was given to the Carthusian monastery at Sheen, in whose hands it remained till the dissolution of the monasteries, when it again reverted to the Crown.

The references to the church, in the Ecclesiastical Archives, are few and unimportant.

A.D. 1248.—In Bishop Pontissara's register "*Ecc'ia de Nyweton*" is mentioned.

A.D. 1291.—In the Taxatio of Pope Nicholas IV, "*Ecclesia de Neweton*" is entered and the living assessed at 12 marks.

No reference to Niton is made in the Dean's return to Bishop Woodlock, A.D. 1305. The omission is thought to be due to the record having been defaced, lost, or injured by time.

A.D. *c.* 1341.—In the "*Inquisitiones Nonarum*" (inquisition of the ninths), *temp.* Edward IV, the return for Niton parish is as follows :—

"PAROCHIÆ DE NEWTONE.

"Nomina hominum ejusdem parochiæ, Nicholaus atte Burgh, Galfridus Kyngot, Rogerus le Brigge, Robertus Hughe, jurati, dicunt super sacramentum suum quod nona garbarum vellerum, et agnorum predicte parochiæ de Newtone valuit predicto anno xiiij° C^s et dicunt quod nona prædicta ad taxam ecclesiæ predictæ anno prædicto attingere non potuit pro eo quod dicta ecclesia dotata est de uno mesuagio, xx acris terræ, ij acris prati, columbarium et reddit, que valuit per annum xxxij solidos viij denarios et dicunt quod decimæ fœni et aliæ minute decimæ cum oblationibus et mortuaris valuit per annum xxvij solidos iiij denarios."[2]

Translation.

PARISH OF NITON.

"The names of the men of the same parish, Nicholas atte Burgh, Geoffrey Kingot, Roger le Brigge, Robert Hughe, jurors, being sworn upon their oath, say that the ninth of the sheaves, fleeces and lambs of the aforesaid parish of Niton is worth in the aforesaid xivth year, one hundred shillings. And they

[1] *Add. MS.*, No. 24,789, p. 191 (Br. Mus.).
[2] *N. Inq. in Curia Scac.*, Rec. Com. Publ., 1807, p. 116.

say that the ninth aforesaid could not amount to the tax of the church aforesaid in the aforesaid year, for this, that the aforesaid church is endowed with a house, twenty acres of land—two acres of meadow, a columbarium. And they declare it is worth by the year thirty-two shillings and eightpence. And they say that the tithe of hay and of other small tithe, with the oblations and mortuaries, is worth by the year twenty seven shillings and fourpence."

The place names of the jurors can still be traced in the locality. "Nicholas atte Burgh," otherwise bury, on the northern boundary of the parish; "Geoffrey Kingot," otherwise "Kingetts," a farmstead, in Niton; Roger le Brigge, doubtless so named on account of his residing near the bridge situated on the west side of the rivulet.

A.D. 1405.—Bishop Wykeham's register gives a Valuation of the benefice of Neweton—"12 marks, the tenth 16*s.*, and a pension of 5*s.*"[1]

A.D. 1410.—In the "Valor Beneficiorum" of Cardinal Beaufort the valuation remains the same.

A.D. 1533-5.—The "Valor Ecclesiasticus," *temp.* Henry VIII, returns as follows:—[2]

Nyghton. Willelmus Watson modo rector.

Valet in firma terr' vocat' glebe land decimis oblationibus et aliis casualibus ut prius per dcm̃ quaternum - - - - - -	xx*li.*	xviij*s.*	ij*d.*
Repris' in procurationibus et quadam annua pensione resolut' - - - - -		liij*s.*	iiij*d.*
Et valet ultra - - - - - - -	xviij*li.*	iiij*s.*	x*d.*
x^ma^ inde - - - - - - - -		xxxvj*s.*	vj*d.*

Translation.

Niton. William Watson now rector.

	£	s	d
Is worth in form of lands called glebe lands, tithes, oblations and other offerings - - - -	xx	xviij	ij
Reprises, in procurations, pension . . . . - -	ij	xiij	iv
And is worth beyond . . . . - - - - - -	xviij	iv	x
The tenth thereof - - - - - - - -		xxxvj	vj
The benefice is referred to in Bacon's *Liber Regis*, p. 940, and the amount entered in the King's Books is -	xx	vij	i

Livings Discharged, p. 941. King's Books

		£	s	d
Clear Yearly Value, not £50.	Godshill (All Saints), with Whitwell Chapel (St. Radegund), united to Nighton R. Repris. 8*s.* 8*d.*	37	17	6

The *Liber Regis* is a compilation from the returns made by Commissioners under the Statute, 26 Hen. VIII, Cap. 3 (1535), which gave the first fruits and tenths to the King.[3] The clear Yearly Values are those of the time of publication, by Bacon, in 1786.[4]

A.D. 1626.—Early in the reign of Charles 1st, in a Calendar of State Papers, is entered—"Grant to Queen's College, Oxford, of the advowsons of the rectories of Headley, Niton, and Weyhill, and the vicarages of Milford, Godshill, and Carisbrooke." On the same date there is entered, in an Appendix, "Grant, at the suit of the Queen, to the Provost

[1] *Wyk. Reg.*, vol. i, p. 372 (H. Rec. Soc.).
[2] *Valor. Eccles.*, vol. ii, p. 25.
[3] W. Rye, *Records and Record Searching*, p. 65.
[4] Bacon's *Liber Regis*, pp. 940–1.

Niton Church.

(Before the Restoration in 1854.)

and Scholars of Queen's College, Oxford (of the above)", adding, "to be held in frank almoigne."[1]

The presentation to the provost and fellows of Queen's College was not in exchange for the college plate, as is so often represented. The plate was not lent till sixteen years later. Entered on the college register is a "Letter from his Majesty to the Provost . . . desiring them to lend him all plate of what kind soever belonging to the College, and promising to see the same repaid. Dated Jan. 5th, 1642. Tankards 36, etc., amounting to £591. 1*s.* 9*d.*"

Tomkins, in 1796, gives a brief description of the Church:—"An ancient building, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and consists of a body and chancel, separated by a Gothic arch. It has a south aisle, separated by four obtuse Gothic arches. The window of the east end has evidently been of stained glass, executed in a superior style, as appears from the head of our Saviour, which is still preserved in a small compartment in the upper part of the window. In the north wall of the church are two Saxon arches, with the architraves entire."[2]

Niton Church was visited in August, 1855, a few years before its restoration, by members of the British Archæological Association, and the following notes of the visit are entered in the Journal:—"It consists of a nave and south aisle, the latter extending one bay at the side of the chancel, a western tower and south porch. The mullions of the south windows have been entirely removed, but as these windows were never of any particular character, and square-headed, they do not suffer much loss of beauty. In the north wall are some remains of early Norman arches, showing that the church once boasted of a north aisle. The south porch is rather remarkable, being barrel-roofed, with stone ribs, in a similar manner to some of the church porches in the Channel Islands."

The following particulars are taken from Mr. Percy G. Stone's invaluable work:—"The church comprises a nave and chancel, with north and south aisles,—the former restored or rather rebuilt in 1864—a western tower and a south porch. The oldest part of the structure, the nave, was probably built soon after the compilation of Domesday Book on the site of the Confessor's church, though this can only be surmised. Towards the end of the 12th century the north aisle was added, and soon after—probably early in the 13th century—the south aisle was built, in all probability by Baldwin de Neweton and William de Insula, and a new chancel took the place of the Romanesque one. In the 14th century the east end was re-built, or at all events remodelled. The two-light north window is of this period, and probably other 14th century windows existed. The porch may have been added late in the century, as the mouldings to the external opening appear to be about this date. In the 15th century, the old south aisle was taken down, widened, and extended eastwards in alignment with the east wall of the chancel, and a four-centred arch was inserted in the south wall of the chancel. The north wall having about this time fallen into a state of

[1] *Cal. State P. Dom. Ser.*, pp. 47 and 578. [2] Tomkins, *I. W.*, vol. ii, p. 113.

disrepair, was pulled down, and the north arcade filled in with the materials thus obtained, 2-light windows being inserted in each bay. To the close of this century I am inclined to place the building of the tower, which appears to have been remodelled in the beginning of the 17th century, when probably the spire was added and the outer walls re-cased. The chief additions of the 16th century appear to have been the square-headed windows of the south aisle. The descent of four steps into the church is curious, but not, as is supposed, peculiar to the dedication. In the 1864 restoration the impost of the old chancel arch was discovered about eighteen inches lower, and further south than the present one, but was plastered over again. At the same time was brought to light the impost of a very low arch, about three feet from the floor level in the south aisle, which had been cased over by a buttress of a later period. This may have been a recess for an altar or tomb in the east wall of the 13th century south aisle, which was concealed by the buttress placed there by the 15th century rebuilders, to resist the thrust of the chancel arch when they took down the east wall to lengthen the aisle. In the south wall of the chancel there is the usual 15th century square opening to the rood-loft, and in the easternmost pier of the north aisle a piscina is inserted, evidence that this aisle was at one time used as a chapel—probably a chantry—founded by Baldwin de Niton or Robert de Pavilly."[1]

"The oldest detail of the church is the Norman font; the circular bowl has a cable moulding round the rim."[2] "In the sacrarium are two good Renaissance chairs worthy of notice, one very elaborately carved and of excellent workmanship."[1] Affixed to the wall in the vestry are the royal arms of George III, with the date 1803, and the names of the churchwardens, Messrs. R. G. Hardley and Whitewood.

Sir John Oglander, in his survey of the Island churches, remarks:—"This church hath no monument now extant in itt, only in ye waynscote in ye sowth chawncell there are 3 coates, which I conceive to be eythor of ye Bewchawmpes, Cawnes, or Halles, for these weare the awntientist famelys that lived there; and divors of them there buryed."[3]

Since Sir John's time a blue slab of marble has been placed in the centre of the chancel floor, with the following inscription:—

HERE LIE DEPOSITED,
TILL THE RESURRECTION OF THE JUST,
THE MORTAL REMAINS OF DR. THOMAS PITTIS,
LATE RECTOR OF ST. BOTOLPH, NEAR BISHOPSGATE, IN LONDON,
WHO AFTER A LIFE OF MORE THAN L YEARS,
SPENT CHIEFLY IN SERVING THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND,
AND IN PRAYING FOR IT
(WHEN HE C^{D} NO OTHERWISE DEFEND IT).
BEING CONSUMED WITH A LONG SICKNESSE,
AND WITH ZEAL FOR THE HOUSE OF GOD;
HE RESIGN'D HIS SOUL INTO THE HANDS OF HIS SAVIOUR,
DEC. 28, MDCLXXXVII (etc.).

"The above Dr. Thomas Pittis was a native of this parish."

[1] Percy Stone, *Archit. Antiq. I. W.*, vol. i, p. 30.
[2] J. Charles Cox, *County Churches, I. W.*, p. 114 (publ. 1911).
[3] Ogl., *Mem.*, p. 190.

"Dr. Thomas Pittis, the son of Captain Thomas Pittis, was born at Niton about 1635, and entered a commoner at Trinity College, Cambridge, 1652, being 'esteemed a tolerant disputant by his contemporaries.' Monarchical principles being held in disfavour, he was in 1658 expelled from his college. After the Restoration he was amply compensated for his losses by being appointed to the rectory at Gatcombe." His marriage to Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Stephens, of Newport, Isle of Wight, is recorded in the Gatcombe parish register:

"1661. The fowerth day of Feb.: were marryed in the parish Church of Gatcombe, one Thomas Pittis Rector of ye sayed p'sh., sonne of Capt. Thomas Pittis, of Nighton and Mrs. Elizabeth Stephens, by Mr. Thomas Collinson, Rector of Nighton. Cum licentia."

He became D.D. in 1670 and chaplain in ordinary to the King. Bishop Morley gave him the good living of Holyrood, Southampton, and the King presented him to the rectory of Lutterworth, Leicestershire, which he exchanged for that of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, which latter he held in conjunction with Holyrood and Gatcombe and the lectureship of Christ Church, Newgate Street, until his death, December, 1687.[1]

In the south aisle, on a plain slab of Portland stone, is cut: "Here lieth the body of Thomas Collinson, who was Rector of Niton 58 years, and died the 8th day of April, 1716, in the 89th year of his age."

On an adjoining slab is another inscription:—"Here lyeth the remains of Mr. William Thornton, Clerk, Rector of this Parish, and Minister of Godshill, 1750. Here the weary be at rest, they hear not the voice of the oppressor."

In the chancel is a medallion monument by Flaxman and bas-reliefs by Riou, to the memory of Mr. Arnold, of Mirables, Lieut.-Colonel of the south-eastern battalion of the 1799 Isle of Wight Volunteers. Arms: dexter, Azure, a chevron ermine, between three pheons argent; sinister, Or, a cross sable, with five fleur-de-lis argent.

Sir John Oglander writes:—"In ye sayd churchyarde there is also a toombe, whereon there wase owt of question, a statua placed; ye effigies of his swerd playnely it thereon to be sene."[2]

In past times both churches and churchyards were often very badly kept. During the 12th and 13th centuries fairs were not uncommonly held in churchyards, a custom which led to such serious abuses that the practice was prohibited by an order issued in 1258 to the effect:—

"And the King commandeth and forbiddeth that from henceforth neither fairs nor markets be kept in churchyards."

"The church itself was commonly used for public business, marketing, and for the election of wardens, overseers, and other parish functionaries," and Stevens further says that "It was the custom for the churchwardens to pay in the church for heads of foxes, badgers, stoats, moles, and sparrows, some of these being nailed to the church door."[3]

[1] Lockhart's *Guide*, p. 81.
[2] Ogl., *Mem.*, p. 191.
[3] Stevens, *Parochial Hist. of St. Mary Bourne*, p. 245.

"The churchyards were not properly fenced in, and on the occasion of the village fairs or festivals the stalls for the wares were erected in and around the churchyards." Early in the 17th century matters came to a crisis, and it was enjoined :—

"That the churchwardens or questmen shall suffer no plays, feasts, suppers, church-ales, drinkings, temporal courts, lay juries, or any other profane usage to be kept in the church, chapel or churchyard."

Oglander says in his time : "There wase a fisch markett there kept, every Wendesday and Fridaye. There is also a crosse with steps to ascende to it; ye base and toppe thereof beinge of stone, very awntient."[1]

With reference to the "old village Cross," it is interesting to note that in the church register, under date 1718, the rector is recorded making "A declaration at the cross before the church, where the cows were milked." At this time the cross stood at the centre of the village green, which extended to the wall enclosing the churchyard, and in all probability the market was held here. The cross had disappeared before 1795, when Tomkins wrote :—"On the south side, opposite the entrance of the church, is one of the ancient fonts, which were used at a very early period, when it was customary to baptise at the outside of the church."[2]

Sir Henry Englefield refers, in 1816, "To the pedestal of an ancient cross, in the churchyard, standing on the top of a flight of octangular steps. This it would have been scarcely worth while to notice, but for the purpose of refuting a groundless idea, which has been repeated in several late publications on the subject of the Isle of Wight, that it was an ancient baptismal font. The square hole in the stone probably gave rise to this fancy, but that hole was evidently for the insertion of the shaft of the cross, and it would be difficult to point out any age in which baptism was administered in the open air."[3]

At the island meeting of the Archæological Association, in 1854, Niton was visited, and the following observation was made :—"In front of the south entrance is the square base of a large cross, somewhat peculiarly placed, the angles, and not the sides, being opposite the cardinal points."

"The base of the cross is of 15th century date, the steps—large, massive, square—rise to a height of 5ft. During the incumbency of the Rev. G. Hayton a fine, but absolutely incongruous Celtic cross, of four-holed Irish design, has been erected on the base."[4]

The land about the church was in the custody of the peoples' warden. It was called the *cemetery*, derived from a word cœmeterium, "a dormitory," it being in the Christian sense the sleeping-place of the dead who had died in the Lord. It was later spoken of as the "churchyard," or under the still more happy appellation of "God's acre."

The churchyard has been enlarged on two occasions. The entrance

[1] Ogl., *Mem.*, p. 191.
[2] Tomkins, *I. of W.*, vol. ii, p. 113.
[3] Englefield's *I. of W.*, p. 100.
[4] J. Chas. Cox, *County Churches, I. W.* (publ. 1911).

Photo by] [H. B. Bacon.

Base of Ancient Village Cross (with modern addition).

gate originally was placed between the two yew trees, still standing amidst the tomb-stones, and the area enclosed by the walls was small, and lying mainly on the north side of the church. In process of time, from the accumulated remains of earlier interments, it became impossible to have further burials, and a part of the village green, with the market cross standing on it, was added to the churchyard. Later a further enclosure was made, a part of the church glebe on the eastern side being taken in. In the churchyard, in an altar tomb, overshadowed by one of the yew trees, which he is said to have planted, lies the Rev. John Barwis, rector of Niton for forty-two years (1786—1828).

Upon the tombstone, as well as on a tablet in the church, he is described as of Langrigg Hall, Cumberland. Mr. Barwis belonged to the ancient family of the name who purchased Langrigg Hall, near Wigton, in the reign of Richard II. His wife, Jane, survived her husband many years, and died at the great age of ninety-six years as recorded on the tombstone. Arms: "Argent, a chevron, between three bears' heads, couped sable, muzzled or." Motto: "Bear and Forbear."

The "parish gun chamber" or "the charnel house," as it was afterwards called, from the collection of fossilised human bones hidden away there, was a ruinous building, and stood against the north side of the church steeple. It was removed in the 1864 restoration. In accordance with the order issued in 1543—"that each parish should provide 'a fawconet of brasse or yron for purposes of general defence,'" a gun was provided. The parochial register contains the following reference to it:—"According to the testimony of James Westmore, the parish sexton, the gun was seen by his father at Cowes, about the beginning of the 19th century, with some such inscription on it as "The Gun of Niton Parish." According to the churchwardens' accounts the powder for the gun was usually purchased out of the church rates, and particular farms were charged with the duty of finding horses to draw it. The guns were brought into the fields on muster days; and the islanders, by frequent practice, became excellent marksmen. Pennant says in his time (1795), "eighteen of these guns were still in existence, and of one pound, and six pounds, calibre."

Church Goods, etc.

It may be of interest at the present day to know the extent and character of the vestments and church furniture possessed by a country church of moderate size before the Reformation, when many of the Island churches were exceptionally rich in vestments. Up to this time the parish, broadly speaking, was bound to find all that pertained to the services, such as vestments, chalice, missal, processional cross, etc., and to keep the fabric and ornaments of the church in proper repair. What strikes one so much in the parish accounts of bygone days is the richness of even small, out-of-the-way village churches. Where we would naturally be inclined to look for poverty and meanness there is evidence to the contrary. In opposition to the generally received opinion, "it is

certain that long before the 14th century the parish church had practically come to be the property of the parishioners, and upon the inhabitants lay the duty of repairing and rebuilding the fabric, of beautifying the edifice, and of maintaining the services. This they did as a matter of well-recognised obligation and duty, and as a matter which afforded them much satisfaction and pleasure."[1] The repairs of the nave especially devolved on the parishioners, those of the chancel—the "parsons' freehold"—devolved on the rector; "a part of the tithe received from the parish was intended to furnish him with the means for fulfilling this duty."[1]

At the visitation of Nicholas Harpsfield in 1543, held at Newport, "The churchwardens of Niton and Whitwell were ordered to repair the church windows."

Edward VI, in his last illness, signed an order for a general visitation of all churches—"to examine their plate, Jewells, Vestments, and other furniture, and to compare the accounts with inventories made in former visitations. The visitors were to leave in every church one or two chalices of silver, with linen for the communion table and for surplices, and to bring in all superfluous articles of value to the Treasurer of the King's Household."

The following list is taken from Mr. Percy G. Stone's *Architectural Antiquities of the Isle of Wight,* and will show that the church at Niton formed no exception to the general rule :—

"The Certificatt of the viewe of All Churche Goods, plate, Jewells, Vestyments, bells, and other ornaments wt. in the Isle of Wight. Takine by Richard Worsley, Capteyn of The said Isle, 6 Edward VI, A.D. 1553."

Nyghtton Churche.

P'cells remayninge in the costody and chardg of John Gelbart and Richard Downer, jun^{r} churche men at this p'sent.

First, one challis silver and gilte weinge xvii oz.
Itm, one challis of silver p'cill gilte weinge xv oz. di.
Itm, on small pixe silver p'cill gilte weinge iiii oz. q^{t}
Itm, on cope of Redde vellot bordered w^{t} Imagry embroderid powderid ou^{r} w^{t} angells and flowers.
Itm, one cope of grene silke playn.
Itm, one vestment blake bawdkine crossede w^{t} Imagary embroderid w^{t} the Albe to the same.
Itm, one vestment of Redde damaske crossede w^{t} Imagry embroderid w^{t} the Albe to the same.
Itm, one vestment of blake worsted crossede w^{t} redde of the same w^{t} the Albe to it.
Itm, one vestm^{t} of wit Damaske bawdkine crossed w^{t} grene vellot w^{t} the Albe to it.
Itm, one vestment grene satten of briges crossed w^{t} purpell satten of bryges w^{t} the Albe to it.
Itm, on vestment blew silke crosede w^{t} Tawny satten.
Itm, to pellows of Redde taffata.
Itm, on herse clothe of blake satten briges w^{t} a crosse of grene satten of briges.

[1] Gasquet, *Parish Life in Mediæval England*, p. 22.

More remayninge in the costody and chardge of John Gilbert and Richard Downer as aforesaide.	Itm, iii Corporis caces wt ther clotis in theme. Itm, to gret candelstyks of brasse, iiii small candilstiks, the Lawpe pane, on branche wt vii candill stiks on it—the Holy water potte, and a coper Crosse. Itm, to gret belles hanging in the stiple and one small belle hanging in the church callid the family belle. In ther churche stocke kine iii more ewe shepe L.

In Worsley's *History* is appended, "A note of all such plate, etc., as hathe bene taken and solde owte of the churches within the Isle of Wight by the parishioners of the same, etc., etc."

Neyghton.

Richard Yeds bownd and appointed for the answer.	Itm, solde in ann. xxxvij. H. viij. one challes of silver weinge xiiij for	s. Lx.

The "one small belle hanging in the church callid the family belle" is the only one so specified in the entire list; all others are referred to as the "Saunt belle." The sanctus or saunce bell generally hung in a small bell-cote at the apex of the gable over the chancel arch outside the church, as at Godshill. "In all the ancient liturgies was a form called the "Preface," which served as an introduction to the Eucharist. The preface closed with the words of the seraphic hymn or "Sanctus," "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts," when this bell was rung. It ceased to be noted after 1590. The bell in question was probably rung before the sermon."[1]

With reference to the "gret belles hanging in the stiple," Dr. Benham, in an MS. dated 1824, mentions three, and gives the lettering on them:—

1. "Although I am but little and small
   I will be heard above them all."
2. "I live in hope. R. B. 1605."
3. "P. S. T. B. Clement Tosiear cast me,
   in the year of 1699."

Only the second bell remains. The rector of Niton writes:—"There were originally three bells in Niton Church tower. One fell and was broken in the fall. It is not known what became of it. A second was found to be cracked. It was taken down and broken up at Niton Farm by Alfred Smith, churchwarden. The fragments were taken to Newport and sold. The proceeds were expended in building a wall to hold up the back of the churchyard along the brook side. The foregoing facts are related by the sexton, F. Westmore, as occurring when he was a boy, nearly 70 years ago. The fall of the first bell occurred at a date previous to Westmore's recollection. He only knows of it by tradition. I believe it fell through the floor and did damage. The beam from which it was suspended is still *in situ*."

With reference to another item in the inventory—"The Lawpe pane" (possibly a misprint for Lampe pane), there is no explanation,

[1] Boucher-James, *Letters Historical, &c.*, vol. i, p. 364.

unless it had some relation to the light kept burning before the High Altar, for the maintenance of which it was a common thing to leave money or lands—called sometimes "the lampe lond." "I geve and bequethe to the high awter within our mother church of Chechister xx*s*. for the maintenance of a contynuell light to be made and mainteyned." "Also, I do geve and bequethe to the big awter in the Churche of Bramshott, and I will that the said londes and rents of the same be ordered by the dis-crecion of the parson of Bramshott."[1]

The item, "To gret candelstykes of brase," appears to be exceptional. A reference is made elsewhere to "fayer (four) gret candilstickes fotede wth. lyons of brase which stode in the chauncell" in Brading Church, and they are the only rivals to the two here mentioned.

The "Church stocke," in this and other parishes, was a parochial charity, made up of "the kine and shepe," or other gifts in kind which were ofttimes left by will, or otherwise bestowed by the well-to-do parishioners, for the relief of the poor. The wardens had charge of the charity, and if the stock got low it was added to by the proceeds of sundry merry-makings, church-ales, and so forth. The Church house spoken of on these occasions belonged to the parish. At a survey of the manor in March, 1608, "The Niton parishioners claimed to hold, of the earl of Southampton, by indenture, the tenement known as 'le church house' with land, *viz.*, a house of three bays and garden—half a rood, for twenty-one years, doing repairs." When pulling down the old structure a leaden seal was found which had belonged to a Papal Bull issued by Pope Alexander IV. The care of the house was another of the multifarious duties devolving on the churchwardens. A brief reference to these important functionaries may not be out of place. "The questmen," as they were sometimes called, were "good men and true," elected annually at a parish meeting, at which the rector would preside; all adult parishioners had a voice in the election. The *raison d'être* of their existence was primarily to take charge of the fabric of the church and other buildings, together with the churchyard and its enclosure. They might have both farming and trading to do in managing the stock of kine and sheep given for the relief of poor cottagers, or to assist needy parishioners with temporary loans, as guardians of the common chest. It was a part of their duties to provide fitting and suitable church vestments and they were custodians of the ornaments, etc., necessary for Divine service. These properties were often of considerable value, and were regarded as belonging to the parishioners. The wardens were answerable to the Archdeacon for their safe custody. They were also responsible for beating the parish boundaries, until these duties devolved on the Parish Council under the Local Government Act, 1894.

NITON PAROCHIAL CHARITIES.

Gifts of Weeckes, Pittis, and Others.

Robert Weeckes, by his will, bearing date 17th September, 1784, gave to the ministers and churchwardens of Niton £150 on trust, to

[1] Capes, *Rural Life in Hampshire*, p. 121.

invest the same in the parliamentary stocks or on real government security, and to dispose of the yearly interest and dividends thereof, for the instructing of poor children of the parish of Niton, to read the English tongue; and he desired that the minister and churchwardens of Niton for the time being would nominate a poor, indigent woman of that parish as a schoolmistress, to instruct the poor boys thereof to read and the poor girls to read, and in knitting and needlework, and he directed the said minister and churchwardens to pay the interest and dividends of the said £150 to such poor woman, so to be by them appointed.

In a table of benefactions in Niton church (year 1826), the following donations are stated, besides that of Mr. Weeckes, and it is added that the interest of all of them was to be expended in instructing the children of poor parishioners of Niton.

Time unknown	Mr. Pittis	£100.
1789	Mr. Richard Blyth	£4.
1823	Thomas Sharpe, Esq.	£5.

The Rev. John Barwis, who has been rector of Niton nearly forty years, and has resided there till the last two or three years, but now lives in Cumberland, informs us (the Charity Commissioners), by letter, that Mr. Weeckes' legacy was invested by himself and the churchwardens, in two Isle of Wight House of Industry bonds, etc., etc. Mr. Barwis also informs us that he could never learn who Mr. Pittis was, from whom the gift of £100 was derived; that there was a tradition that he left that sum to the poor of the parish of Niton, but that it was not known when or for what purpose it was given; that when he (Mr. Barwis) first went to reside at Niton a sum of £96 was brought to him by William Payne, a farmer in the parish, and a churchwarden, which he said he had borrowed from a former churchwarden, who told him that Pittis's legacy was £100, that it was by a former rector placed in the funds, and sold out at a loss of £4.

The returns made to Parliament in 1786 state that:—Pittis gave to the poor of Niton £96, then vested in William Paine, and producing £3. 16*s*. 8*d*. per annum. This sum of £96, together with the donations of Mr. Blyth and Mr. Sharpe, are now in the hands of Mr. Barwis, who states that he only waits for an opportunity of placing all the money for which he is accountable, on the security of a House of Industry bond, and it appears to us desirable that this should be done.

The annual sum of £10 as the interests of the gifts at four per cent. has been constantly paid by Mr. Barwis to a schoolmaster at Niton, to which 4*s*. per annum has been lately added, as the interest of Mr. Sharpe's gift of £5. The schoolmaster, who was appointed by Mr. Barwis, occupies, rent free, a house situate at a place in the parish called Beerlay, with a schoolroom attached to it, a garden, and a parcel of land adjoining thereto inclosed from the common. Mr. Barwis, some years after he went to reside at Niton, purchased this house, with the garden belonging to it, as a habitation for the schoolmaster, repaired

the premises, and built the schoolroom at his own expense, except a donation of 20 guineas from Messrs. Kirkpatrick, the lords of the manor, who also permitted Mr. Barwis to make an inclosure of part of the common, which still remains attached to the school premises.

Mr. Barwis states that in the purchase and repairs he expended nearly £300, and that he proposes to give the premises in perpetuity, for the use of a schoolmaster, to be appointed by the rector of Niton for the time being. The schoolmaster in respect of his salary of £10. 4s. per annum, and of the occupation of these premises, instructs in reading, free of expense, the children of poor parishioners of Niton, being paid a small weekly sum for such as are taught writing and arithmetic, and for the girls, who are instructed in needlework by the schoolmaster's wife.

The children are admitted into the school upon the nomination of Mr. Barwis, during his residence at Niton, and his curate has been authorised by him to appoint them in his absence. At the time of our investigation (May, 1825) there were about twenty children so instructed. The master has other scholars, for whose education he is paid by their parents."[1]

The following entries appear in a "Calendar of Trust Deeds," and relate to the parochial charities[2]:—

	£	s	d
p. 669.—A charity school, at Niton, co. Southampton, 8 Geo. IV - -	29	12	0
p. 670.— " " " " 11 " - -	15	8	0
p. 681.—A building, etc., at Niton, for scholastic purposes, 1849 - -	83	10	0

With reference to a building for scholastic purposes, the Rev. W. Sells, rector of Niton, writes:—"The building must be the old cottage at Berelay, which was used as a school, and left, by will, by the Rev. R. Dixon (rector of Niton, 1828-59), 'to the Rector and Churchwardens,' and now constitutes the endowment of the Church Sunday Schools."

NITON PAROCHIAL CHARITIES—

AS SETTLED, 1898.

No.	Donor	Date	Capital	Annual Income	Object	Trustees
1	Robert Weekes	1788	179 16 7	4 9 8	Education	Rector and Parochial Trustees
2	.... Pittis	?	119 7 9	2 19 8	"	"
3	Jane Barwis	1840	59 3 11	1 12 4	Bread	Parochial Trustees
4	Rev. J. Dixon	1858	108 16 11	2 19 8	"	Rector & Wardens
5	R. Holford	1855	Land at Blackwater	16 0 0	Half Education & half Bread	Rector and Parochial Trustees
"	"	"	61 13 9	1 13 8	& Clothing	
6	H. Priddle	1887	44 12 9	1 4 4	Aged Poor	Rector & Wardens

[1] From the *Charity Commissioners' Report*, 1826, vol. xv, p. 491.
[2] *Deputy Keeper Public Rec.*, 32 Rept.

THE MANOR OF NITON AND ITS LORDS.

The history of the early manorial lords of Niton, subsequent to the entry in Domesday Book, is enshrouded in mystery, and only a very conjectural account can be given.

In the time of Edward the Confessor, Niton was a royal manor, forming part of the "ancient demesne" of the Crown, and was held from the king by two freemen.

After the battle of Hastings the estate passed, with the grant of the "Lordship of the island," to William Fitz Osbern. The payment of tithes to the abbey of Lyra is accepted as evidence that the manor was held by him during his brief tenure of the lordship. Documentary evidence of tithe payment is furnished in the Confirmation charter of William de Vernon, the particulars of which have been given. (See page 283.)

Roger de Breiteul, earl of Hereford—his second son, succeeded to the English estates in 1070, but soon forfeited his holding for treason.

At the compilation of the Domesday Survey in 1086 the manor is found in the king's hands, entered under the name of Neeton and Abla. The record is as follows:—

"Neeton et Abla tenet Rex. Duo liberi homines tenuerunt in alodium, de Rege Edwardo, pro 2 maneriis. Tunc geldaverunt pro 3 hidis; modo, pro una hida et una virgata. Terra est viij carucatæ. In dominio sunt 3 carucatæ; et 7 villani, et 18 bordarii cum 5 carucatis. Ibi 9 servi. Tempore Regis Edwardi valebat 17 libras; et post, et modo, 12 libras. Tamen reddit 17 libras."

A translation of the foregoing is furnished, printed in italics, at the commencement of the following paragraph:—

"The King holds Neeton and Abla (Marable?) Two freemen held it, allodially, as 2 manors of King Edward." The Hampshire and Isle of Wight estates held by the King may be divided into two classes (*a*) those which belonged to Edward the Confessor, as in the instance before us; (*b*) those derived from other sources. The first class were known as the "ancient demesne" of the Crown.

"As an alod," this was the highest in the scale of free holdings—free from every suit, service, or imposition, save and except the land tax called hidage.

"It then paid geld for 3 hides"; the hide of the Domesday Book was not a fixed area of land, but a unit of assessment, bearing no fixed relation either to area or value—on which the "danegeld" tax was paid.

"Now for 1 hide and 1 virgate," apparently showing that for some cause, possibly the devastation caused by the Norman conquest—the assessed value of the land had decreased.

"There is land for 8 ploughs." The Domesday record generally begins with the number of hides at which the whole manor was rated according to ancient assessment, and was used so exclusively, while the actual extent of the manor was described in carucates—otherwise plough

teams—"*carucæ*"—upon the number of which the basis of the assessment rested. The acreage of land mentioned here was uncertain, but it was generally understood to be as much as a plough could, by course of husbandry, plough in a year. The number of plough teams having been given, it is then stated how many belonged to the lord's demesne and how many to the villeins.

"*In* (the) *demesne are 3 ploughs*"; the demesne was the lord's portion of the manor as distinguished from such lands as were held of him by service.

"*And there are 7 villeins and 18 bordars with 5 ploughs.*" The working staff of a farm in early days depended mainly on its size. Here the 7 villeins and 18 bordars would show the estate was a fairly large one. The "villani" were the better class of tenants—equivalent to the modern farmer—holding land from the lord, proportionate in extent to the number of oxen they severally contributed to the manorial plough teams. The bordarii, or cottagers, were tenants lower in degree, having with the cottage a small allotment of land for their own use, for which they paid in suit or service of some kind.

"*There are 9 serfs,*" who were little better than slaves. (Seebohm estimates that in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight there were 4,000 villeins, the same number of bordarii, and just over 1,700 serfs.)[1]

"*It was worth, time of king Edward, 17 pounds, and afterwards, as now, 12 pounds; but it pays 17 pounds.*" This latter sum was evidently considered to be in excess of its real value, and was wrung from the tenants by the king's reeves or bailiffs. It would appear, from facts already given, that the king's rights in the Island were "farmed" out as a whole, the result in many cases being that the rental was raised and often proved oppressive.

The manor of Niton remained vested in the Crown till the re-grant of the Lordship of the Island by Henry I to his devoted friend and follower, Richard de Redvers. It is interesting to note that for over two centuries this estate remained part of the private demesne of the Lords of the Island until the sale in 1293 by Isabella de Fortibus, the last of the De Redvers line.

In one of the earliest of the Steward's Rolls, 54 Henry III (1270), the island estates of this lady are shown to have comprised the manors of Bowcombe, Niton, and Pann, till 12 Edward I (1284), "When Thorley, Wellow, Brighstone, and Wroxall reverted to her on the death of her mother, Amicia, widow of Baldwin de Redvers, the manors having been part of her marriage dower."[2]

After the purchase of the island, the king reserved the manor as a Crown property, as the name "Niton Regis" suggests. To this day one of the holdings on the estate is called "The King's Farm." On the northern boundary of the parish another smaller holding is known

[1] Seebohm, *The English Village Community.*
[2] Hillier, *Hist. & Antiq. I. W.*, part ii, p. 91.

as "King-gates," a name now corrupted into "Kinggetts." "Place-names beginning with 'King' are of Anglo-Saxon origin, and, in the majority of cases, implies or denotes royal ownership."[1]

The earliest documentary evidence having reference to the manor and its lords is contained in a charter granting land to the abbey of Quarr :—

"CARTA ALWARIE DE NEWTON, VEL NITON."

"Alwarie de Newtona et uxor mea, consensu d | omi | ni nostri Richardi de Lestre concessimi abbati &c. de Quarrera totam terram quam habui sub falasia de Newetona &c."[2]

Translation.

"CHARTER OF ALWARIE OF NITON."

"Alwarie of Niton and my wife with the consent of lord Richard del Lestre give to the abbey of Quarr all the land under the cliff at Niton, etc."

This charter is assigned, by Worsley, to the time of Henry III, but is probably, from the style of the grant, of an earlier date.

RICHARD DEL ESTRE, the over-lord referred to in the charter, has no very definite history, and his relationship to the Gatcombe line of the "Stur" family is not established. It is a matter of conjecture that he derived his descent from Jordan del Estre, who was an attesting witness to Baldwin de Redvers' charter to Christ Church, Twyneham, *circa* 1135. There is no documentary evidence to show that he was seised of the whole Niton estate, though viewing the subsequent descent of the knights' fee, the inference that he possessed the entire estate is strengthened. It is on record that he bestowed "a mark" value of land to the abbey of Quarr, *circa* 1161.

There is no question, however, as to his identity with Richard del Estre holding lands in other counties. Bridge says :—

"In the time of Henry the 2nd, Richard de la Estrê was certified to hold one hide and a half and one small virgate in Eston Neston, of the fee of Berkhamstede. . . . In the time of Henry the 3rd, Robert Paveley (a relation by marriage), was possessed of that manor."[3]

Bridge further says, in a reference to Sewardesley :—

"That here was formerly a nunnery of the Cistercian order dedicated to the Virgin Mary. . . . This religious house was founded by Richard de Lestre, lord of the manor of Eston Neston, in the reign of Henry the 2nd. . . ."[4]

Both estates, at Niton and Northampton, were held later by Robert de Pavilly, who had married Joan, the daughter and co-heir of William del Estre, the grandson of Richard del Estre. That he held other estates in the counties of Dorset and Somerset is clearly established by the following documentary proofs :—

(*a.*) "Ho[min]es de Bikehilla q[ue] fuit Ri[cardi] del Estre et de Andredesfeld [a] D[omi]ni Reg[is] deb[ent] iiijs. et vjd. de Dono. Sumerseta."

(*b.*) Id[em] Vic[ecomes] redd[it] Comp[otum] de . . . et de iiij li [bras] xv d[enarios] de firma de Cerne q[ue] fuit Ric[ardi] del Estre cui h[er]es et ex manu Reg[is]. Dorseta et Sumerseta."[5]

[1] *Notes & Queries*, 11th Ser., vol. ii, p. 192.
[2] W., *App.*, No. 67.
[3] Bridge, *Hist. of Northampton*, p. 289.
[4] *Ibid.*, p. 295.
[5] Hunter's *Great Roll of the Pipe*, 1189—1190.

Translation.

(*a.*) "The honour (*id est.* The men) of Bikehilla and Andresfeld which belonged to Richard del Estre owe (or paid in fine) to the Lord King, four shillings and sixpence of gift—Somerset."

(*b.*) The same sheriff renders (his) account of the farm of Cerne for four pounds and fifteen pence. This belonged to Richard del Estre whose heirs from the hands of the King (received it) Dorset and Somerset.

These estates passed to his son, and are shown later held by his descendants. His wife was very possibly the Juliana del Estre mentioned in the following record :—

"Ric[ardus] Ruff[or]d custos honoris de Berch[am]asteda deb[et] xij s[olidos] et vj d[enarios] q[ua]s recip[it] a Juliana del Estre."[1]

Translation.

"Richard Rufford bailiff of the honour of Berchamsted owes xij shillings and vj pence which he received of Juliana del Estre."

The date of Richard del Estre's death is not given, but there is presumptive evidence to show he was dead by 1189, leaving a son to succeed.

RICHARD (2) DEL ESTRE, knight, son and heir, succeeded, and is found seised of lands in Dorset and Somerset. The following excerpt is taken from the Close Rolls :—

(Edward II.) "1313. Inspeximus and confirmation of a charter of John, *re* 'Abbathie de Forda,' dated 10 October in the sixth year of our reign and therein appears—'ex dono Ricardi del Estre unam virgatam terre in Cernem" —*id est,* of the gift of Richard del Estre one virgate of land in Cerne."[2]

There are several references in deeds and charters of the time which presumably refer to him :—

"Dorseta—Ricardus de Estre petens, et Petrus de Bucwode tenens in concordia sunt de placita custodie terrarum et heredis Werreis de Pilesdena. Ita scilicet quod idem Ricardus remisit predicto Petro custodiam illam et qui et clamavit."[3]

Translation.

"Dorset. Richard del Estre, plaintiff, and Peter de Bucwode in possession agree as to a plea for the custody of the lands and heir of Werreis de Pilesdena. Richard remits the custody to the aforesaid Peter and quitclaims, etc."

On a Chancery Roll, 3 John, is entered the following :—

"Anno tertio regni regis Johannes. Dorseta et Sumerseta. Ric[ardus] de Lestre redd[it] pet[itionem] de iij m[arcas] q[uia] n[uper] h[abuit]. . . In th[esaur]o vij*s.* et deb[et] xxxiij*s.*"[4]

Translation.

"Richard de Lestre presents a petition (renders account) of three marks. . . In the treasury are 7 shillings and he owes 33 shillings."

Three years later, on another Roll, is entered :—

"6 John (1204). Sum[er]seta. Jacob[us] Jud[eu]s Oxon[iensis] h[abe]t litt[er]as d[omi]ni Regis sup[er] Ric[ardi] del Estre de x li[bras] cu[m] luc[ro] p[er] cirog[ra]phum."[5]

[1] Hunter's *Great Roll of the Pipe*, 1189—1190.
[2] *Cal. Cl. R.*, Edw. II.
[3] Palgrave, *Rot. Curia Regis*, vol. ii, 1194—1199.
[4] Hardy, *Rot. Cancellarii*, p. 373.
[5] Hardy, *Rot. de Oblatis et Finibus*, p. 236.

The excerpt is bracketed with other items, and opposite the bracket appears :—

"Capiat[ur] ad op[us] d[omi]ni R[egis] de q[ua] lib[ris] j bisant[us]."

Translation.

"Jacob, the Jew, of Oxford, has letters (a writ) of the lord King on Richard del Estre for £10; together with interest under seal. Let there be deducted for the King's use, from each pound one besant."

Jacob was doubtless a moneylender of the time, to whom del Estre owed ten pounds, which Jacob cannot recover, so he obtains the king's letters (*i.e.*, a writ) under seal, no doubt ordering the sheriff to distrain for the amount, deducting a percentage for the king's use.

An almost identical transaction, in another county, is recorded three years later :—

"9 John (1207), Norhampton:

"Jacob[us] de Norhampt[on] Jude[us] h[abe]t litt[er]as d[omin]i R[egis] sup[er] Ric[ardi] del Estre de dece[m] m[arcam] cu[m] luc[ro] per cirog[ra]phum. Capiatur de qualibet li[bris] j bisant[us] ad opus Regis."[1]

Translation.

"Jacob of Northampton, the Jew, has letters of the lord King on Richard del Estre for ten marks with interest under seal. Let there be taken from each pound one besant for the King's use."

From an entry made in the "Liberate Rolls" it is probable that Richard del Estre was with the king's army in Ireland in the year 1210:

"12 John. [Pro.] Militibus de exercitu Hiberniæ—

Prestitia facta apud Cn cem subter Pembroc militibus exercitus . . . (among the names is that of) Ricardi de Lestre xxs."[2]

Translation.

"(For) soldiers of the army in Ireland—Loans made at C—cem below Pembroke, for Knights' of the army . . . Richard del Estre 20 shillings."

A similar amount had been loaned by him the previous year.

It would appear, from an entry made in the "Fine Rolls," that he died towards the close of 1223, or early in the following year, leaving a son and heir to succeed.

William del Estre, son of Richard, did homage for the lands that his father held in the counties of Dorset, Somerset, and Northants :—

9 Henry III. 1224. "*Pro Willelmo del Estre.*—Rex Constabulario Berchamstedæ salutem Scias quod cepimus homagium Willelmi del Estre de terris que fuerint Ricardi del Estre patris sui et quas idem Willelmi de nobis tenent debet in capite . . . ex quo accepta securitate cepistis a predicto Willelmo de sine illo nobis reddendo id scire facias per litteras tuas Vicecomitibus Dorsetæ et Sumersetæ quibus mandavimus quod tunc ei plenam seisinam habere faciat de omnibus terris que fuerint predicti Ricardi, etc. Teste Rege, apud Windlesore, xxx die Dec."[3]

Translation.

"For William del Estre.—The King, to the constable of Berchampstead greeting. Know that we have taken the homage of William del Estre for the lands which were Richard del Estre's his father and which the same William holds of us, etc., etc. It is commanded to the two sheriffs of Dorset and Somerset to give seisin of the lands, etc., which were of the aforesaid Richard."

[1] Hardy, *Rot. de Oblatis et Finibus*, p. 373.
[2] Hardy, *Rot. de Liberati*, p. 122.
[3] Roberts, *Exc. e. Rot. Finium*, p. 124.

Beyond the facts here recorded, no further history of William del Estre is obtainable, and the date of his death is not known. The Somersetshire estates are found in possession of his descendants. In the Feudal Aid of 1346, "Idonea de Beauchamp" is returned as a joint holder of a knight's fee in Wandestre, etc., and, in the later Aid, of 1428, "Walter de Beauchamp is returned for the half fee which Idonea formerly held there."[1] The subsequent history of the Niton manor and the knight's fee suggests that he, William del Estre, left no male issue to succeed, and that his estates in the Isle of Wight and elsewhere descended to his two daughters.

JOAN DEL ESTRE, otherwise JOHANNA, one of the daughters, is found later seised of half a knight's fee at Niton, and to have married, prior to 1240, a Robert de Pavilly. The following reference to the marriage is found entered in a Charter Roll :—

"6 August, 24 Henry III (1240).

"Allowance of an agreement whereby Robert de Pavilly and Joan, his wife, demised their manor of Este Neston to Imbert Pugeys to hold by a payment of twelve pounds."[2]

Robert de Pavilly's name is entered on a Patent Roll of an earlier date :—

"3 June, 18 Henry III (1234).

"Grant to Robert de Pavilly whom the King sent on his service to Brittany, that the King on his return will give him a guarison (*garisonam*) which should of right content him."[3]

A later entry, in the "Fine Rolls," states that "he had lost his eyesight in the king's service, and that arrears of a yearly fine of 6 marks due for the debts of his wife's father be remitted."

"44 Henry III (1260). *Pro Roberto de Paveley.*"

"Cum Robertus de Pavely qui domini Rege laudabilit' servivit et in servicio suo lumine oculorum amisit Rex singulis annis in sex marcam teneatur occasione Johanne uxor sui filia Willelmi del Estre de arreragiis debit ipsius Willelmi donec eadem debita Rex pleni fuerint per soluta Rex per servicio suo sibi impenso et pro garisona in qua eidem Robert." . . . (There are ten additional lines given.)[4]

In a short record of Pleas it appears that at an assize held 51-2, Henry III (1267-8), Henry Trenchard, Richard Uppenhull, and others unjustly disseised "Robertum de Paveley et Joh'am uxorem ejus de libero tenemento suo in 'Rathebrok . . . Sutht.'"[5]

Robert de Pavilly's wife probably died before 1280, since in that year his name is entered in the "List of Knights' fees belonging to the castle of Caresbrok" :—

"Robertus de Pavilly tenuit de comitissa in capite dimidium feodi in Neuton quod comitissa nunc tenet in dominico."

Translation.

"Robert de Pavilly held of the Countess in capite half a fee in Niton which the countess now holds in desmesne."

[1] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 1247—1258.
[2] *Cal. Ch. R.*
[3] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 18 Hen. III, p. 414.
[4] Roberts, *Exc. e. Rot. Finium*, vol. ii, p. 337.
[5] *Abbrev. Placit.*, 51-2 Hen. III.

For some reason, or cause as yet unknown, the half fee hitherto held by de Pavilly now becomes merged in the lordship of the countess Isabella de Fortibus, Lady of the Isle, a possible surmise being that the de Pavillys had parted with their island estate and settled elsewhere. This inference is borne out by the fact that in 1 Edward III (1328), "Robert de Paveley, with Alice, his wife, held Bickenhall," an estate possessed by Richard del Estre in 1189.[1] On a Patent Roll is entered :—

1331. May 5. "Licence for Robert Paveley to enfeoff Nicholas Tryvet and Nicholas de Ledred, of the manor of Bykenhull, co. Somerset, held in chief, and for them to re-grant the same to him and Alice, his wife for their lives, with remainder to John, son of William de Stapleton and Cecily his wife in fee tail and to the right heirs of Robert."[2]

It would seem that this manor passed, by marriage with Joan, from the de Esturs, and further, that Sir John Paveley, of Bickenhall, who died 9 Edward I, was a descendant of the marriage.

On the sale of the island, in 1293, by Isabella de Fortibus, the half moiety became vested in the Crown and was afterwards so held, as shown by the following excerpts :—

1304.—"Half moiety in the King's hand." Granted later, after 1310, and before 1327, to Edward, earl of Chester, the King's eldest son.

1344. April 22. "Order not to intermeddle until further notice with . . . the manor of Neuton, as the King has reserved the said manor (with others), to his chamber. By letter of the secret seal called "Griffoun."

1346.—Richard de Langele holds the half moiety for the King—or, as entered—"Ricardus de Langele tenet in Nyweton dimidium feodi quod fuit in manu regis."[3]

1353. April 20. "To the collectors of the fifteenth granted by the laity in the isle of Wight. Order to supersede the demand made upon the men and tenants of the King's manors of Bouecombe, Wroxhall and Neuton in that island . . . as in consideration of divers charges falling upon the said men and tenants, the King has pardoned them the sum due from them for the fifteenth for the men and tenants there who are now deceased and whose lands are in the King's hand for that cause."[4]

1388.—Ralph de Wolverton, temp. of Richard the 2nd had charge of the King's moiety, either as a royal officer, or, "in farm" :—

"De Rad'o de Wolverton xiij libras vj solidos viij denarios per annum de custodia maner de Neuton."[5]

Translation.

(Received) "of Ralph de Wolverton £13. 6*s*. 8*d*. per annum from the custody of the manor of Niton."

In 1409 the king granted the manor to the Duke of York. At his death the manor reverted to his widow, Phillippa, daughter of Lord Mohun. She died in 1430. The usual inquisition was taken, and the jurors' return is given :—

"Phillippa Ducissa Ebor' quæ fuit uxor nuper Walteri Fitz Wauter Militis et dictus Walterus Insula de Wight—'Nytton maner'. Freshewater maner' et advoc' eccliæ."[6]

[1] Collinson, *Hist. of Somerset*, p. 62.
[2] *Cal. Pat. R.*
[3] *Inq. & Ass. re Feudal Aids*, p. 339.
[4] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1349—1354.
[5] *Add. MS.*, No. 24,789 (Br. Mus.).
[6] *Cal. Inq. p. m.*, vol. iv, 10 Hen. VI.

A CONJECTURAL PEDIGREE OF THE DE ESTUR'S, OF NITON, FROM CIRCA 1161 TO 1240.

Richard del Estre, of Bykenhull, co. Somerset, and of Niton, Isle of Wight, gave lands, at Cerne, to Forde Abbey, by 1189, probably dead 1189.

↓

Richard (2) del Estre, son and heir, under age 1189. A Knight, 1209–19, owning lands in Dorset and Somerset. In the army of Ireland. A rebel, temp. Henry III. His lands, at Stapleford, granted to Philip le Fouer.

↓

William del Estre, son and heir, did homage in 1224 for his father's estates in Dorset and Somerset. His wife was probably Alice—named in the "Fine Rolls," 1239. Died, leaving issue two daughters, co-heirs to his estates.

Joan del Estre, seised of ½ fee, in Niton, etc. = Robert de Pavely.

Sister and co-h., held ½ moiety of manor of Niton. = ? The owner of the manor of Lillesdon, Somerset.

The early history of the other half moiety is not so clear. Joan de Pavilly's sister is conjecturally supposed to have married the owner of Lillesdon manor, co. Somerset, the issue of the alliance being two sisters, whose descendants are found seised of a quarter knight's fee in Niton manor, and to hold a half moiety each in the Lillesdon estate.

Emma, one of the sisters, married Jordan, son of Walter de Insula, of Wodyton, Isle of Wight, by or before 20th Henry III, and is shown in possession of a quarter knight's fee in Niton and seised of a half moiety in the Lillesdon manor. She died in 1253, leaving a son, heir to her estates. The writ to the Sheriff of Southampton bears date 27th February, 37 Henry III, and the inquisition following is of more than ordinary interest, from being one of the earliest of these island returns now extant :—

"37 Henry III. Southampton.

"The Isle of Wight—two parts of one carucate of land with pasture adjacent, and 71*s.* 2*d.* rent, and half mark from meadow, held of B(aldwin) de Insula sometime earl of Devon (whose heir is in the King's ward). Service unspecified.

"Somerset—Inquisition (undated). Lillesdon, 1½ carucate of land, held of the earl of the Isle by knights' service.—Chescumbe, 1 hide land held of the Abbot of (For)de by service, xx*s.*

"Dorset.—Gatemarestun, 1½ hide land, held of Reginald de Albemarle, by service of one mark yearly.

"All these lands are in the hands of Jordan de Insula.

c. Hen. III, File 13 (14)."[1]

WALTER DE INSULA, son and heir, was a minor when his mother died, as set forth by the jurors :—

"Walterus filius prædictorum Jordani et Emmæ est propinquior hæres ejus; et de ætate quindecim annorum et est in custodia, etc."[2]

The wardship and custody of the lands was committed to the charge of Jordan de Insula, father of the child :—

"et sunt omnes terræ prædictæ in manum Jordani de Insula quondam viri ejusdem Emmæ—Somerset et Dorset."[3]

[1] *Index to Ch. & R.* (MSS. Dep., Br. Mus.).

[2] *Cal. Inq.*, No. 259 (Rec. Com. Publ., 1904).

[3] *Calend. Genealogic.*, vol. i, p. 168, No. 2 (ed. Roberts).

The last statement is further supported by the jurors' return to the inq.p.m. held 47 Henry III, following the death of Baldwin de Redvers, lord of the island :—

"Item—Jordanus de Insula et Phillipus de Cantilupo tenent dimidii feodi per eadem servicia."

It can be shown from other sources that Niton is the manor referred to here. No further history of Walter is forthcoming. It is probable that he died before 1280, since, in the feodary for that year—8 Edward I—Walter's son's name is entered :—

"Will' filius Walteri de Insula tenet de comitissa in capite 4am partem unius feodi in eadem Neuton."

Translation.

"William, son of Walter de Insula, holds of the countess in capite, quarter part of one fee in the same Niton."

William de Insula, son and heir of Walter, was next in possession, and is shown by various deeds to have had seisin of the estates in Dorset, Somerset, and Devon granted him. In the county of Somerset he had an estate at Chafcombe :—

"Baudre de Nonetone et Willelmus de Insula tenent Chafcombe in socagio pro dimidium f' j m'de Abbate de Forde."[1]

In Devonshire, Collinson says[2] :—William de Isle held, 22 Edward I (1294), the chief manor of Wandstrow, of lord Roger de Moels. Other lands in the same county, at Stathe, are shown, by a lease granted by the Dean and Chapter of Wells Cathedral, to have belonged to him : "22 Edward I—lands, tenements, and pastures of Saltmor, late of William de Insula, in Stathe, until the lawful age of the heirs of the said William."[3]

Dying the Wednesday next after the Translation of St. Benedict, 22 Edward I (1294), it was found by the Somersetshire inquisition that he left a daughter—an infant—heir to the estates :—

"*Willelmus de Insula,* inq. p.m.

Amydonia filia dicti Willelmi est propinquior hæres et est ætatis dimidii anni fere. Somerset."[4]

Amydonia, otherwise Idonea de Insula, daughter and heiress of William de Insula, was born *circa* 1293-4. Several references to her are found in the records of the period :—

1299. May 14. "Confirmation of a sale made by Walter de Gloucester, escheator, etc. . . . . to Humphrey de Bello Campo, Knt., for £20, of the marriage of Idonia, daughter and heir of William de Insula, tenant in chief."[5]

1303. Oct. 18. Dundee. "Grant to Humphrey de Bello Campo, by reason of his service in Scotland, of the custody, during the minority of Amidonia, the daughter (filii) and heir, of the lands in the Isle of Wight, late of William de Insula, tenant in chief—Mandate in pursuance, to the escheator."[6]

[1] *Inq. & Ass. re Feudal A.*, 1284-5, co. Somers.
[2] Collinson, *Hist. of Somers.*, vol. ii, p. 229.
[3] *Cal. MSS. D. & C. Wells*, vol. i, p. 419 (Hist. MS. Com.).
[4] C. Roberts, *Calend. Genealog.*, vol. i, No. 20.
[5] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 1274—1354, p. 412.
[6] *Ibid.*, 1301—1307, Edw. I, p. 482.

1308. July 16. "To Walter de Gloucestre, escheator, etc.—Order to deliver to Hugh de Bello Campo and Amidonia his wife, daughter and heiress of William de Insula, etc., seisin of the lands of the said William, she having proved her age and her husband, who was a minor when she married him, having done fealty for the same. This marriage occurred in consequence of the grant of her marriage by the late King to Humphrey de Bello Campo, father of Hugh."[1]

Idonea's age at this time was about fifteen years. *The Manual of Common Law* states, in reference to these early marriages:—"If the husband is above seven and under fourteen years of age, or the wife is above seven and under twelve, the marriage is not absolutely void, but if the husband, on attaining the age of fourteen, or the wife on attaining the age of twelve, and not before, may disagree to and avoid it; but if at that age they agree to continue together, they need not be married again."

Some uncertainty exists as to the branch of the Beauchamp family Hugh took his descent from. He was most probably an offshoot of the Beauchamps, of Hache, co. Somerset. Collinson writes:—"The Beauchamps, of Lillesdon, were a branch of the Hache family, and the arms—'Vaire, argent and azure'—were depicted on the tombs and windows of the chapel at Lillesdon."[2]

A "Sire Omfrey de Beauchamp" bore "Vair, a label, or," and may possibly have been the father of Hugh de Bello Campo.[3]

The particulars of an estate settlement are given in a "Feet of Fines," *temp.* Edw. II.:—

"At Westminster, on the Octave of St. Michael, between John de Kyngesbury, querent, and Hugh de Bello Campo and Amidonia, his wife, deforciants, for 3 messuages, 2 carucates and 4 bovates of land, 36 acres of meadow, 100 acres of wood, and £4. 19s. 9d. rent in Chafcombe, Wondestrowe and Stathe, etc. (and lands in South'ton and Dorset). Hugh and Amidonia acknowledged the right of John as by their gift. For this John granted the same to Hugh and Amidonia and the heirs of Hugh by Amidonia, and, if Amidonia die without such heirs, then, after the death of Hugh, to remain to the heirs of the body of Hugh begotten; and if Hugh die without such heirs then to the right heirs of Amidonia."[4]

References are made, in different deeds, to the lands held by them:—

(*a*) "Memorandum that the dean and chapter of Wells kept a love day (*dies amoris*) on the vigil of St. Peter ad Vincula, at Wells, between themselves on the one part and Hugh de Bello Campo and Robert de Pudele on the other, touching a schedule between the parties. . . ."[5]

(A love day is a day given to the parties that they may come to terms in the interval.)

(*b*) "Settlement of questions"—between the same—concerning a chantry in the chapel of St. Martin, at Lillesdon, etc.[6]

[1] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1307—1313.
[2] Collinson, *Hist. of Somerset*, p. 320.
[3] Papworth, *Dictionary of British Armorials.*
[4] *Feet of F. Publ. Somerset Rec. Soc.*, vol. xii, p. 114.
[5] *Cal. MSS. D. & C. Wells*, vol. i, p. 187 (Hist. MS. Com.).
[6] *Ibid.*, p. 418.

From the following entry (in French) it would appear that Hugh de Bello Campo predeceased his wife :—

"Quit claim indented by Idoigne, late the wife of Hugh de Bello Campo, Knight, lady of Lillesdon, to the dean and chapter of Wells, of all rights to common with her beasts as appurtenant to her free tenement of Lillesdon," etc.

Dated at North Cory, Thursday after the Purification, 20 Edw. III (1347).[1]

The supposition is further strengthened by the Subsidy Roll of 1346. The assessment in the printed publication is entered thus :—

"[Idonea] Beauchamp tenet eadem, *i.e.*, Nywenton 4tam partem un' feodi que fuit heredis Will' del Insula."[2]

On referring to the original Roll, no trace of the name, given in brackets, remained. It was in all probability supplied by the compiler from some other reliable source.

Idonea was living in 1356, as shown by the following excerpt :—

"Indenture of accord, made at Northcory, St. Swithin's day, 29 Edward III, between the dean and chapter of Wells and dame Idogyne de Beauchamp (lady and heir of Lillesdon), concerning the claim to have a chantry in her chapel of Lillesdon," etc.[3]

No further documentary evidence is forthcoming, and the date of lady Idonea's death has not been traced. It may be surmised, from the subsequent descent of the estates, that a son, Hugh, was the issue of the marriage, and that he died during his mother's lifetime. The return made for the Lillesdon manor, *in re,* the Feudal Aid, 1346, is given as follows :—

"Hundredum de North Cury—

De Elizabetha que fuit uxor Hugonis de Beauchamp pro 4ta parte un' f' in Lyllesdon quod Baldricus de Nonyngton quondam tenuit."[4]

Translation.

"Elizabeth, who was wife of Hugh de Beauchamp, for the 4th part of one fee in Lillesdon which Baldric de Nonyngton sometime held."

The estates, moreover, are shown, held later by the Beauchamps :—

"At Westminster, in the quinzaine of Easter 9 Rich. II (1385-6), and in the following year—between John Beauchamp, of Lillesdon, Knight, and Joan his wife, querents . . . . in re, 3 messuages . . . . in Stathe, Saltmore and Lillesdon."[5]

The estates in the Isle of Wight are shown by an inquisition taken 7 Henry V, vested in the descendants of Idonea :—

"*Will'us Beauchamp, armiger.*"

"Nyton maner' et Chale maner' in Insula Vecta, etc."[6]

id est. "William Beauchamp, armiger, is seised of Niton and Chale manors, etc., in the Isle of Wight."

[1] *Cal. MSS. D. & C. Wells*, vol. i, p. 419 (Hist. MS. Com.).
[2] *Inq. & Ass. re Feudal Aids*, vol. ii, p. 339.
[3] *Cal. MSS. D. & C. Wells*, vol. i, p. 418 (Hist. MS. Com.).
[4] *Inq. & Ass. re Feudal Aids*, vol. iv, p. 359.
[5] *Feet of F. Publ. Somerset Rec. Soc.*, vol. xvii, p. 129.
[6] *Cal. Inq. p. m.*, vol. iv, p. 42.

A Conjectural Scheme Showing the Descent of the De Insula Moiety.

Emma, co-h. to ¼ fee in Niton manor, ob. 1253. = Jordan, s. of Walter de Insula, of Wodyton, living 1263.

Walter de Insula, s. and h., died before 1263. =

William de Insula, s. and h. of Walter, ob. 1294. =

Idonea (otherwise Amydonia), living 1356. = Hugh de Bello Campo, dead by or before 1346.

Hugh de Beauchamp died during his mother's lifetime. = Elizabeth (? possibly related to the De Keyne's family).

Of the "De Nonyngton," or "Noneton" Moiety, in the Manor of Niton.

The descent of this part of the estate is not clear. In a "Feet of Fines," under date 1235-6, the following is recorded :—

"20 Henry III—At Ivelcastre, on the morrow of St. Nicholas, between Robert, son of Ranulf, claimant, and Jordan de Insula and Emma, his wife, Warin de Noneton and Margery, his wife—who Emma de Siffrewast called to warrant; for a virgate of land in Chafcumbe—Assise of mort d'ancestor was summoned, Robert quitclaimed to Jordan and Emma, Warin and Margery, and the heirs of Emma and Margery; for this they gave Robert 6 marcs."[1]

There can be little doubt that the Margery referred to in the "*Pedes Finium,*" wife of Warin de Noneton, was sister to Emma, wife of Jordan de Insula, and co-heir to the Niton and Somerset estates. Of her husband nothing traceable has been recorded. Presumably he was a landholder in the county of Somerset. He pre-deceased his wife, leaving issue a son and heir. Margery re-married Philip de Cantilupe, and probably died before 1263. In that year Philip de Cantilupe is returned with Jordan de Insula as joint holders of half a knight's fee in Niton :—

"Idem Jordanus de Insula et Phillipus de Cantilupe tenent dimidium feodi per eadem servicio."[2]

Translation.

"Likewise Jordan de Insula and Philip de Cantilupe hold half a fee by the same service."

It can be shown from other sources (*a*) that the manor of Niton is here referred to, (*b*) that both Jordan de Insula and Philip de Cantilupe held "in jure uxoris," and of wardship during nonage of the sons and heirs of the estates.

The following grant is entered on a Close Roll under date 10th June, 1267 :—

"Grant to Philip de Cantelupe and his heirs of free warren in his demesne lands on Little Kantok, Lillesdon and Chafcomb, co. Somerset."[3]

[1] *Pedes Finium*, 1196—1307, *Som. Rec. Soc. Public.*, vol. xxii, p. 96.
[2] *Inq. p. m.*, 47 Hen. III, membr. 32.
[3] *Cal. Ch. R.*, vol. ii.

From a notice in the "Select Rolls" it would seem that Philip de Cantilupe was involved in some act of rebellion against the Crown :—

"Terrae Rebellium datae fidelibus. Tempore Regis Henrici III. Nicholao filius Martini omnibus terras Phillipi de Cantilupo et Hugonis de Lacumb."[1]

Translation.

"Lands of the Rebels given to the faithful. Time of king Henry the 3rd. To Nicholas, son of Martin, the lands of Philip de Cantilupe and Hugh de Luccombe."

Philip was living in 1274, his name being entered on a Close Roll for that year :—

"3 Sept. 1274.—Robert de Cantilupe came before the King . . . and sought to replevy to Philip de Cantilupe his land at Hareslad, which was taken into the King's hands for Philip's default in the King's court."[2]

Sir Baldric de Nonyngton, of Niton and Lillesdon, knight, son and heir of Margery and Warin, succeeded to the estates, and in the feodary of Edward I is returned seised of the Niton manor :—

"Baldricus' de Neweton tenet de comitissa 4tam partem un' f' in Neweton."[3]

Translation.

"Baldric de Neweton (Niton), holds of the countess the 4th part of one fee in Niton."

In the Feudal Aids, 1284-5, for the counties of Somerset and Dorset, Baldric de Nonetone and William de Insula are jointly returned seised of the Lillesdon and other estates :—

"Hundredum de Suthpertone" Somerset.

"Baudre de Nonetone et Willelmus de Insula tenent Chafcombe in socagio pro dimidium feodi i' m' de Abbate de Forde."

Sir Baldric is shown, with two others, holding two knight's fees in "Villa de Gevelton," Hundredum de Sumertone. Collinson writes that "Lillesdon was, in the time of Edward I, the land of Baldric de Nonyton, who held it of the king as of the honour of Carisbrooke, in the Isle of Wight." He further says: "Sir Baldric was a person very eminent in his days, and one who was entrusted with many important offices."[4]

"Among the taxors appointed in England, *re* the confirmation of the great Charter of Henry III, of the liberties of England, Baldric de Nonyton of the co. of Somerset, is returned for Dorset."[5] He was summoned to the muster in London, 7th July, 1297, and against the Scots, to Carlisle, in 1300. He is returned in the Feudal Aid, 1303, seised of the Lillesdon holding :—

"[Hundredum de] North Cury.—Baldricus de Nonygton tenet 4am partem feodi in Lillesdon de herede comitisse de Insula."[6]

This moiety is found held, in the later Aid of 1346, by Elizabeth, widow of Hugh de Bello Campo.

[1] Hunter, *Rotuli Selecti.*
[2] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1272—1279.
[3] W., *App.*, No. 30.
[4] *Hist. of Somers.*, vol. ii, p. 178.
[5] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 1292—1301, p. 298.
[6] *Inq. & Ass. re F. A.*, vol. iv, p. 313.

Sir Baldric died, 3 Edward II, leaving a daughter, Margery, heiress to his estates. The mandate, "*de diem clausit extremum,*" is dated June the 25th.[1] Prior to his death Sir Baldric executed a deed of gift :—

"The said Baldric gave all his lands in the Isle of Wight to Robert de Pydele, who married Margery his daughter and heir, for life, at the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, 2 Edward the 2nd, at which time the island was in the hands of the earl of Cornwall, to whom the said Robert did fealty, and was accepted a suitor at the court of Knights, at Newport. The said lands are held of the honour of Caresbroc, now in the King's hand, by service of ¼ Knight's fee."[2]

The Somersetshire inquisition was taken 11th July, 4 Edward II :—

"Lillesdene.—A moiety of the manor (extent given with the names of tenants) held of the King in chief as of the honour of the castle of Caresbrok' in the Isle of Wight, now in the King's hand by service of ⅛ Knight's fee."[3]

The Isle of Wight inquisition was held 3 Edward II :—

"Baldricus de Noneton."

"Insula Vecta terra et tenementa ibidem.
Newport sect' cur' Southampton."[4]

Margery de Nonyngton, daughter and heiress, succeeded to the estates. The jurors returned her age as 21, or more when her father died, and that she was married to Robert de Pudele. He was probably related to the Dorsetshire family of that name, and did homage for the estates, July 21st :—

"De fidelitate capta—Rex cepit fidelitatem Roberti de Pudele qui Margeriam filiam et heredem Baldrici de Noneton defuncti duxit in uxorem . . . . Et mandatum est Walto de Glouc' esch." . . .[5]

Translation.

Of fealty taken. The King has taken fealty of Robert de Pudele who had in marriage, Margery, daughter and heiress of Baldric de Noneton deceased. . . .

Robert de Pudele is returned as one of three landholders at Niton,[6] and is shown in a Feet of Fines, 7 Edward II (1313-1314), seised of other estates :—

"Robert de Pudele and Margery his wife on the octave of St. Hilary, at Westminster, claim for 10 messuages of land, 42 shillings rent, and a rent of moiety of one pound of Cummin in Noneton "—and at the same time and place —"a messuage, a carucate of land and 11*s.* 1*d.* rent in Lyllesdon." . . .[7]

He predeceased his wife, but the year of his demise has not been traced. Collinson says :—"That the successors of Robert de Pudele assumed the name of Luccombe from the place of their habitation."[8]

As in the descent of the corresponding De Insula moiety, so here, the further devolution of the De Noneton estate becomes involved. Members of another family, the "De Keynes" or "Kaynes," are shown by various inquisitions possessed of the ¼ fee formerly held by Sir Baldric de Nonyngton, and the why and wherefore are not in evidence.

[1], [2], [3] *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, pub. 1904, vol. 5, No. 210.
[4] *Inq. p. m. Rec. Com. Public.*, c. 1812.
[5] *Exc. e. Rot. Finium*, 4 Edw. II, membr. 21.
[6] *Inq. & Ass. re Feudal A.*, vol. ii, p. 321.
[7] *Publ. Som. Rec. Soc.*, vol. xii, pp. 40, 41.
[8] Collinson, *Hist. of Somerset*, vol. iii, p. 119.

(1) Warin de Noneton, predeceased his wife. = Margery, co-heir to ½ fee in Niton and ½ fee in Lillesdon, dead before 1263. = (2) Philip de Cantilupe, held, "*in jure uxoris*," ½ fee in Niton.

Sir Baldric de Nonyngton, Knt., of Niton, I. of W., and Lillesdon, co. Somerset, ob. 1310. = ...

Margery, dr. and heiress to the De Noneton estates. = Robert de Pudele.

Of the "De Keynes" Family, in Relation to the Manor of Niton.

John de Kaynes, who died 2 Edward III, is shown by an inquisition seised of estates at Niton.[1] He was a lineal descendant of the ancient family of "Keynes" or "Kahaynes," who were seated at Winckley, co. Devon, in the time of Henry II, and bore for their arms: "Azure, a bend undeé cotised argent." He married Isabel, a daughter and co-heiress of John, son of Sir Ralph de Wake. According to Collinson, "the Wakes were seated at Dowlish Wake, or East Dowlish, early in the 12th century. . . . All the names of that branch which possessed this manor are not transmitted to us, but it appears that in the time of Edward I it was the property of Sir Ralph Wake, a person of great account in these parts. . . . This Ralph besides . . . also held the manor of Tangle, in the county of Southampton. By Alice, his wife, he left issue John, sometimes called De Wake, and sometimes "La Wake," his heir, who succeeded to the estates and died seised of them 22 Edward III, leaving three daughters co-heirs, *viz.*, Isabel, wife of John de Kaynes, Margery, wife of Hugh Tyrel, and Elizabeth, unmarried.

At her father's death Isabel de Kaynes had the manors of East and West Dowlish, and a third part of Compton Martin allotted to her.[2]

John de Kaynes predeceased his wife. The writ to the sheriff is dated 16th February, 2 Edward III (1328-9). At the inquisition he is shown seised of the Niton estate:—

"*Joh'es de Caynes*—or *De Kaynnes*.

"Niwetone in Insula Vecta j mess' et 40 acr' terr' etc. ut de castro de Caresbrok, Suth'ton."[3]

On a Close Roll the following is entered:—

1328. Nov. 1. "To Simon de Bereford, escheator, etc. Order to cause dower to be assigned to Isabella, late the wife of John de Kaynes, tenant of the King as of the honour of Gloucestr' in his hands by the forfeiture of Hugh le Despencer, the younger."[4]

A further injunction was issued:—

"Not to intermeddle further with the lands that the aforesaid John held of other lords than the King . . . to restore the issues thereof . . . as the King learns by inquisition that Thomas de Kaynes his son is his next heir and was aged six months at St. Barnabas last."[4]

Isabel de Kaynes survived her husband 32 years. For her Niton

[1] *Cal. Inq. p. m.*, vol. vii, p. 114.
[2] Collinson, *Hist. of Somerset*, vol. iii, p. 119.
[3] *Cal. Inq. p. m.*, vol. vii, p. 114.
[4] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1327—1330, p. 336.

A SCHEME SHOWING THE CONNECTION OF THE "DE WAKE," "DE KEYNES," AND "SPEKE" FAMILIES WITH NITON.

ARMS OF "DE KAYNES" FAMILY.

Azure, a bend undeé cotised argent.

ARMS OF THE "SPEKE" FAMILY.

Barry of eight, azure and argent, over all an eagle displayed, with two heads, gules.

"THE WAKE FAMILY."

Sir Ralph Wake, of Dowlish, co. Devon, and Tangley, co. Sutht. = Alice.

John de Wake, ob. 22 Edw. III. = ...

THE "DE KAYNES" FAMILY.

John de Kaynes, ob. 1328 (*Inq. p. m.*, 2 Edw. III), seised of lands at Niton, and at Wynkelegh, co. Devon. = Isabel, of Dowlish and Tangley, ob. 1360 (*Inq. p. m.*, 33 Edw. III).

Margaret = Hugh Tyrel.

Elizabeth.

Thomas de Kaynes, of age Nov. 1348, ob. 1362, (*Inq. p. m.*, 35 Edw. III). = Margaret, dr. of Sir John Beaumont, of Yolston.

John Kaynes, "Senior," of age 1374, ob. 1420 (*Inq. p. m.*, 7 Hen. V). = Joan, dr. of Nich. Wampford.

THE "SPEKE" FAMILY.

John L'Espek, of Bamford Speke, co. Devon. = Constance, dr. of John de Esse.

John Kaynes, "Junior," ob. 1421 (*Inq.* 8 Hen. V). = ...

John.

Robert.

William, only surviving son. = ...

(2) Hugh Champernoon, armiger, ob. 2 Edw. IV. = Joan, dr. and h., of Niton, ob. 1462 (*Inq. p. m.*, 2 Edw. IV). = John Speke, in 1428 holds lands in Niton, a Knt. 1440, dead by or before 1447.

John Speke, of age Sept. 1444, dead Dec. 1444. = Alice, dr. of John Beauchamp, and h. of Sir Thomas Beauchamp, Knt., of White Lackington.

John Speke, of White Lackington. = Joan, dr. of Will. Somaster, of Nethercot.

estate she found two archers for island defence, *temp.* of Edward III. In the Feudal Aid of 1346 the following is recorded :—

"[Johannes de] Kaynes tenet in eadem villa 4tam partem unius feodi que fuit Baudri de Nonyton."[1]

The foregoing is a copy as it appears in the printed publication. A scrutiny of the original Subsidy Roll[2] shows no trace of the Christian name. The words in brackets had been supplied from some other source, and since strong evidence can be adduced opposed to the items as printed, it is thought that the words in brackets may be discarded and Isabel stand in place of Johannes, since Thomas, the son and heir, was still a minor and not in possession of the estates, his name was not likely to appear.

THOMAS DE KAYNES, of Niton and Dowlish, had seisin of the lands granted 5th November, 1348, as shown by the following order :—

1348. Nov. 5. "To William de Ryngebourn, escheator in the Isle of Wight. Order to cause Thomas, son and heir of John Kaynes, tenant in chief of the late King to have seisin of all lands whereof his father was seised at his death in his demesne as of fee, as he has proved his age before Thomas Carey, escheator, co. Dorset, and the King has taken his homage, etc."[3]

A similar order was issued on the same date to Aymer Fitz Waryn, escheator, co. Devon, relating to the estates in that county.[4]

He married Margaret, daughter of Sir John Beaumont, of Yolston, and had issue a son. Thomas de Kaynes died, 35 Edward III, and was found by inquisition seised (*inter alia*) of the Niton estates :—

"107. *Thomas de Keynes.*

"Newton, in Insula Vecta, un' mess'. Tangelegh maner' 3tia pars, Suth't."[5]

JOHN DE KAYNES, son and heir, was next in possession. He was born and baptised at Wynkelegh, on Monday, after the Feast of Pope St. Clement, 26 Edward III, and was thus aged eight years at his father's death. He married Joan, daughter and co-heir of Nicholas Wampford, having issue two sons, Richard and John, which last was of Dowlish. Particulars of a settlement of the family estates are given in a "Feet of Fines," 7 Henry V (1419-20), made by John Kaynes, "senior," relating to the manors of Est dowelysshe, West dowelysshe, Chubbeleigh, and Compton Martin :—

". . . . and if there is no heir to the body of John Keynes, then a moiety of all to remain to Thomas Pillond, son of Joan, sister of John Keynes . . . . and if Thomas die without such heirs, then the said moiety to remain to Alice, sister of John Keynes."[6]

It is probable that he died soon after executing the deed, for the inquisition post-mortem was held 7 Henry V :—

"*Joh'es Keynes, Senior*—

Nyton reversio maner in Insula Vecta."[7]

[1] *Inq. & Ass. re Feudal A.*, 1346, p. 339.
[2] Box 173, No. 19.
[3] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1346—1349, p. 570.
[4] *Ibid.*
[5] *Inq. p. m.*, *Rec. Com. Publ.*, c. 1812, vol. ii, p. 233.
[6] *Feet of F. Publ. Som. Rec. Soc.*, vol. xxii, p. 179.
[7] *Cal. Inq. p. m.*, vol. iv, p. 44.

JOHN DE KAYNES, styled "the younger," succeeded, and dying the following year, was found by inquisition taken, 8 Henry V (1421), seised of the manor of Niton :—

"*Joh'es Keynes, Junior*—
Nyton maner' in Insula Vecta."[1]

He left an only daughter Joan, wife of John Speke, heiress to the estates.

OF THE "SPEKE" FAMILY AND THEIR RELATION TO NITON MANOR.

Pole, in his *Description of the County of Devon,* says :—"The family of Speke were anciently possessed of the manor of Bramford Speke, which hath a very longe tyme bine the inheritance of the name of Speak, or Espeak, wch have bine in the first tymes, not longe after ye Conquest, men of very great estate and condicion. . . . John le Espeke married Constance, daughter of John le Esse, and had issue John, Robert and William; the two elder brothers died without issue. William Speke had issue John, wch had unto wief Joane, daughter and heire of John Kaynes, the younger."[2]

The marriage of the heiress of Niton took place before 1428, for in the Feudal Aid for that year Joan's husband is returned in the assessment list :—

"Johannes Speke de comitatu Devoniæ, gentilman, tenet 4am partem unius feodi militis quod Bawdrey de Nonynton quondam tenuit."[3]

Translation.

"John Speke of the county of Devon, gentleman, holds a quarter part of one Knight's fee, which Baldric de Nonyngton sometime held."

John Speke was knighted prior to May, 1440. On a Patent Roll is entered :—

1440. May 12. "Commission to William Wynard esquire (and others) to take the muster of John Speke, Knight, and 420 soldiers of his retinue, to go on the King's service on the sea, for the safeguarding thereof."[4]

He died *after* August, 1441, the date when the following inquiry took place :—

1441. Aug. 4. "Commission to the Mayor of Southampton (and others) to enquire touching the persons into whose hands have come 16 butts of Romeney of Ivo Amar of St. Paul de Lyon, Brittany, carried on a carrack taken by John Speke, Knight, and set on shore within the said town and to make restitution thereof or of their value."[5]

And *before* 1447, when his wife re-married, as shown by the following excerpt :—

"26 Henry VI (1447-8), in *re* plaint—Hugh Champernoon and Joan his wife, who was the wife of John Speke, Knight."[6]

Sir John left issue two sons, of whom later Joan's second husband was living 32 Henry VI, when a settlement of various properties was

[1] *Cal. Inq. p. m.*, vol. iv, p. 52.
[2] Pole, *Hist. of Devon*, p. 235.
[3] *Inq. & Ass. re Feudal A.*, vol. iv, Somerset.
[4] *Cal. Pat. R.*, vol. iii, 1436—1441, p. 450.
[5] *Ibid.*, p. 575.
[6] *Feet of F. Publ. Som. Rec. Soc.*, vol. xxii, p. 199.

made, the effect of the deed being to settle the estates in the first instance on the issue of her second marriage.[1] Hugh Champernoon died s.p. 2 Edward IV, and Joan soon after. Under date 12th October, 1462, is entered :—

"Commission to John Cheyne, esquire (and others) to enquire what lands Joan—late the wife of Hugh Champernon, esq., held in chief or otherwise, in the counties of Somerset and Dorset, and who is the next heir."[2]

The jurors at an inquisition taken 2 Edward IV (1462) return :—

"Johanna que fuit uxor Hugonis Champernoon, armigeri, defuncti—Niton maner' in Insula Vecta, Tangeley maner' extent, Sutht'. (and many other lands in Devon and Somerset)."[3]

JOHN SPEKE, son and heir, married Alice, daughter of John Beauchamp, and grand-daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Beauchamp (of White Lackington). He was living and of age on September 16th, 1444, as shown by the following excerpt :—

"Licence for John Speke and Alice his wife, kinswoman and heir of Thomas Beauchamp, Knight, and Elizabeth his wife—to wit, daughter of John, son of the said Thomas and Elizabeth, to enter and have seisin of all the manors, towns . . . . late of the said Thomas, tenant in chief, etc., in the King's hands by his death. . . . ."[4]

He was dead by December 1st of that year, when the following grant was made :—

"Grant to William, marquis of Suffolk, Master William Waynflete, provost of Eton College, and John Hampton, esq., for the body—of the keeping of all lands, late of John Speke, esq., tenant in chief, in the King's hand by his death, and the minority of his heir to hold with the keeping and marriage of the heir during his minority."[5]

A further grant to the same parties is entered on the 19th of the same month, with an addenda :—"With the fine of the heir's mother, who has married without licence."[6] The marriage thus took place between September 16th and December 19th, 1444.

Collinson, referring to White Lackington, says :—"It was transferred by marriage to the Beauchamps. Sir Thomas Beauchamp, stiled of White Lackington, knight, died seised of this manor, 9 Henry VI (1430), leaving no issue (his son, John Beauchamp, having died in his father's lifetime), whereupon Alice, his niece (?), became his next heir. She was married to Sir John Speke, knight, who, in her right, enjoyed this and other manors."[7]

The same writer further remarks :—"The once noble mansion of the Beauchamps and the Gournays is now in ruins, its small remains being converted into offices for a farm house, and the chapel into a cyder vault. On the south-west side of the chapel lay three effigies, in stone, of men in armour, and two females representing some of the noble

[1] *Feet of F. Publ. Som. Rec. Soc.*, vol. xxii, p. 177.
[2] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 1461—1467, p. 231.
[3] *Cal. Inq. p. m. Publ. Rec. Com.*, c. 1812, vol. iv, p. 318.
[4] *Cal. Pat. R.*, vol. iv, 1441—1446, p. 296.
[5] *Ibid.*, p. 314.
[6] *Ibid.*, p. 316.
[7] Collinson, *Hist. of Somers.*, vol. i, p. 67.

family of Beauchamp, whose arms, "Vaire, argent and azure," were depicted on the tomb and in the windows."[1] "The church at Dowlish is dedicated to St. Andrew. . . . The north part has been the burial place of the families of Keynes and Speke, and there still remain several ancient tombs, one of which represents John Speke and Joan his wife, who brought the estate into the family."[2]

Bridge gives a pedigree (*"Index to Printed Pedigrees, Visitation to Somersetshire, 1623"*) of the Speke family of White Lackington, from L'Espec, *circa* 1153, to Sir John, who married the daughter and heir of Sir Thomas Beauchamp.[3]

The manor appears to have been held later by John Bolour, but the why and wherefore are not clear :—

"105. *John Bolour—the elder—*

(Writ wanting) inq. p.m. 11 October, 2 Henry VII (1487), Hants (*inter alia*).

"A fourth part of the manors of Nyton and Chale worth £6, held of Edward Wodefyeld, Knight, by fealty and suit of court of the manor of Newport."[4]

Two of the sub-manors still retain the names of the early owners. "Beauchamps," now a little square cottage near the "Orchard," was held by the heiress of William de Insula, who married Hugh de Beauchamp, *c.* 1308, and "Keynes," or "Caynes Court," from a Devonshire family of the name who held the manor in 1328, probably by marriage with a daughter of a former owner. The latter holding is now a mere cottage tenement, "with a four-centred door opening, and stone mullioned windows," facing the church, on the road leading over the down to Chale. It is mentioned, in 1791, as "Cains Court—house and garden—1 rood."

Two of the farms still retain the name of former owners. "Knowles" farm, on the sea front, is possibly named after Richard Knol, who was bailiff of the Niton manor in 1270. In 1608 the name is given as "Knoles." "Edes" farm, so called after a yeoman family resident for several centuries in Niton parish, whose members served as reeve or provost, *temp.* Henry VII, and in his successor's reign. In 1536 Richard Yeds, *i.e.*, Edes, was churchwarden, and the marriage of his son in 1574 to Annis Blow is recorded.

The estate was sold, *temp.* James I (1603-1625), to Thomas Coteile, and was settled by him on the issue of his sister's marriage with Sir Richard Edgecumbe, Knt. The son and heir, Piers Edgecumbe, is thus found in possession of the manor in 1640.

In 1706 the sub-manors of Beauchamp and Caynes Court are found vested in the Meux family, of Kingston. Sir William Meux died in that year seised of them and divers manors in the Isle of Wight. His estates devolved on his sisters, Anne, Jane, and Elizabeth, co-heirs at law.

Anne Meux died unmarried, leaving her moiety to her sister Jane, and was interred at St. Margaret's, Westminster.

[1] Collinson, *Hist. of Somers.*, vol. i, p. 320.
[2] *Ibid.*, vol. iii, p. 119.
[3] *Ed. R. Mundy*, pp. 137 and 149.
[4] *Cal. Inq. p. m.*

Jane Meux, by will, dated June 7th, 1747, proved 1750, left her estates to her niece, Lady Elizabeth Worsley.

Elizabeth Meux, the eldest sister, married Sir John Miller, of Alvington, Isle of Wight, and of Froyle, co. Hants, Bart. Dying March 5th, 1754, Lady Miller left her estates to her two daughters, Elizabeth, wife of Sir Edward Worsley, of Gatcombe, and Jane, wife of George Borland, Esquire, share and share alike. There being no issue to the latter marriage, the Borland estate reverted to the sister.

On the 20th of April, 1766, Mr. James Worsley, of Stenbury, purchased "Buddle and Hoads" farms from Lady Worsley for £1,820. These farms, together with other parts of the Niton, Beauchamp, and Caynes Court estates, were ultimately purchased by Mr. Joseph Berewick. He died in 1798, and by will, dated 7th February, 1783, left his estate to his only daughter, Mary, wife of Mr. Anthony Lechmere, of Rhydd, co. Worcester.

In the year 1800, "The manor of Niton, of Beauchamp and Caynes' Court, Buddle and Hoads farms, with the appurtenances, 60 messuages, 60 gardens, 30 barns, 30 stables, 50 orchards, 1,000 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, and 200 of pasture, were purchased by James, Joseph, and Edward Kirkpatrick."

Two independent surveys were made at this period, one in 1791, the second in 1803, both returns being substantially the same. The total area of land in the occupation of 32 tenants was 1,145 acres, in 700 plots, the area of the down lands in addition being 184 acres, with roads and waste 22 acres. Mr. Anthony Bell, who made the last survey, remarks:—"The land in Nyton parish varies exceedingly, but the soil most predominant is a strong loam on a sub-stratum of free or calcareous stone adapted to any produce that may be required. The meadows are abundantly productive. All the farms 'let out on lives' are in a very bad state (always so)." Mr. Bell makes a recommendation:—"An attempt to exchange the dispersed property in the 'common fields' by a deed of exchange amongst the leaseholders, and whenever the lives could be purchased, either by an annuity, or otherwise, to disfranchise the same. Under such a regulation much improvement as to the mode of cultivating the 'common fields' might be adopted." Anticipating the "three acres and a cow" era, Mr. Bell says:—"It is an Act of the greatest humanity, but of sound policy, to afford every proper degree of assistance, and I would recommend a sufficient quantity of land be granted to each cottager to keep a cow and the farmers to supply them with hay and straw during the winter."

THE MANORIAL ROLLS, ETC.

The early Account Rolls, or, as they are often called, the "Compoti" of the bailiff, reeve, provost, or other officer in charge of the manor, are not forthcoming. Hillier says: "Amongst the records late in the Queen's Remembrancer's Office there also remain a few of the rolls of

the steward's, or receiver's accounts of the island," adding, "the rolls now in existence for Niton are 54th and 56th Henry III, and 18th and 19th Edward I."[1] The "Original Ministers' Accounts" have been referred to, and a further careful search made amongst the parchments there, without success. The printed volume of the names of manors mentioned in the "Original Accounts" has also been consulted with a like result. Hillier gives *in extenso* one of the earliest of the Stewards' Rolls, 54th Henry III (1270), entitled the "Compotus of Benedict, constable of Carbroc." This furnishes the returns and emoluments of the lordship of the Isle of Wight for that year. Amongst the first payments entered on the Roll is one made to "Richard Knol, bailiff of Neuton xxvj*s*. viij*d*.," and amongst the receipts mentioned is one "from Richard, bailiff of Neuton, cj*s*. viij*d*."[2]

In 1280 (probably earlier), the land and half the Knight's fee in the manor held by Robert de Pavilly in right of his wife appears for some reason to have devolved to Isabella de Fortibus, and was later merged in the Crown estates. Notices are entered of payments made from time to time by the bailiff in charge of the King's moiety. In 1388, *temp.* of Richard II, Ralph de Wolverton pays £13. 6*s*. 8*d*., "de custodia de maner de Nyton." It may very reasonably be inferred that the source of this payment was the half moiety in the manor formerly owned by de Pavilly. A return of "The Assize Rents, Fee Farm Rent, Perquisites of Court, etc.", for the year 1488-9 includes a compotus of the manor of Nyghton, and the payment of £20. 5*s*. 5*d*. is made by "Will'm Jollyf," presumably the bailiff in charge.[3] Among the accounts of Ministers of the King *inter alia* for the year 1505, Niton is entered as follows: "Nyton, Comp'us, Joh'e Eccles." A return of "The Annual State of the Crown Lands in the Isle of Wight, the Extent and Clere Valewe of all the Manors, Lands, Rents, etc., for the space of oon hole yere," made in 1507, and the "Ferme of Nyton" contributes £xvij. x*s*. vij*d*.[4]

In 1560 the payment is entered, "the reeve of Niton 10*s*. per annum," this sum being his stipend, possibly. A further payment "for Rent there decayed, per an.: xxj*s*. x½*d*.", is recorded. Illness of a low type was prevalent, and doubtless accounts for the general depreciation in the value of property.

The following Rolls are included in the Exchequer Ministers' and and Receivers' accounts:—[5]

Roll 5,	Henry VII	Compotus	John Collys.
„ 15,	Henry VIII		John Ede, provost, £17. 14*s*. 10*d*.
„ 38, 3–4	„		John Collys, „ £18. 18*s*. 7*d*.
„ 80, 8–9	„		John Ede.
„ 104, 28–9	„		John Boldnor.

The fee farm rent of the manor in 1672-5, *temp.* Charles I was £18. 4*s*. 4*d*.[6]

[1] Hillier, *Hist. & Antiq. I. W.*, pt. ii, p. 91.
[2] *Ibid.*, p. 92.
[3] *Harl. R. A.*, 38.
[4] W., *App.*, No. 25.
[5] *Exch. M. & R. A/cs.*, vol. i.
[6] *Cal. Treasury Books*, 1672–5, p. 368.

Survey of Niton Manor.

A survey of the manor was made in 1609, the 6th of James I., and furnishes the names of the different tenants and the extent of their holdings in detail.[1] A translation of the survey is given below. The estate about this time was sold to Mr. Thomas Coteile, and the survey, doubtless, had some relation to this transfer of the property.

The parties whose names are mentioned were "the free and customary tenants" who cultivated the common fields, and did suit and service at the Manor Court.

It may be well to explain the meaning of the term "by copy" as applied to a landed estate. In England, a tenure of estate by copy of Court Roll; or, a tenure for which the tenant has nothing to show except the rolls made by the Steward of the lord's Court, which rolls contain special entries and memoranda of the admission of tenants, etc. Copy-hold property cannot now be created for the foundation on which it rests, is, that the property has been possessed time out of mind by copy of Court Roll, and that the tenements are within the manor. There are two sorts of copy-hold; the first is entitled "ancient demesne," or a customary freehold, and the second a "base tenure" or mere copyhold.

County of Southampton.[1]

Isle of Wight.

Manor of Niton.

Survey made there 21 Oct., 6 James I, by Oliver Thurgood, gentleman, by virtue of the King's commission, by the oaths of the tenants there, *viz.*,

William Peare, gent. Thomas Pettis. William Curtisse. John Downer. William Goater.	Daniel Haward Thomas Meadmore John Harvey, junior Richard Munt. Thomas Orchard.

Andrew Ripley.
William Spanner.
William Trefford.
William Orchard.
William Edes.

Who say upon their oath that:—

(Customary tenants)

Richard Upkenrich claims to hold one cottage in the occupation of Jeremiah Chambers, *viz.*,

Dwelling house of 2 bays, appleyard, garden and curtilage - - - - -	½ rood	Rent 1*s.* 1 work. heriot.
Arable land in le Westfield - - -	2 ,,	
Common for 3 sheep - - - - -	-	
Value to lease - - -		8*s.*

[1] *Aug. Off. Misc. Books*, vol. 421, ff. 32–47.

John Harvey, by copy, dated 6 April, 1608, one piece of land, 18 acres, and 1 Esteich late Richard Harvey's, *viz.*,

Dwelling house of 2 bays, barn of 2 bays and curtilage	½ rood	Rent 11*s.* 1½ works. heriot.
Close called Netherclose	1 acre	
" " Upperclose	1 "	
" " Hurwell	2½ "	
" " Droway	1 "	
Meadow called Currant Mead	1 "	
Pasture in le Nethercommon	1 "	
" Tarves	1 "	
Meadow " " Eastfield	2 roods	
Arable " " Westfield	9½ acres	
Common of pasture for 50 sheep		

To have to him, Jane Newe and Edward Newe for their lives.

Value to lease[1] - - - £5.

Judith Smiddle, widow of Ralph Smiddle, by copy dated . . . . a tenement late her husband's, *viz.*,

Dwelling house, of 2 bays, barn of 1 bay, stable of 1 bay, appleyard, garden and curtilage	1 rood	Rent 13*s.* 1½ works. heriot.
One close adjoining the house	1 acre	
" " called Hurwells	3 "	
" " " Hooke	2 "	
Arable in le Westfield	6 ac. 3 rd.	
Common of pasture for 70 sheep		

To have for her widowhood and then to Ralph, her son, for his life.

Value to lease - - - £3.

William Peare, gent., in right of Elizabeth Peare, his wife, by copy dated 30 Sept., 1607, 3 tenements, late William Gayne's, *viz.*,

Dwelling house of 3 bays, in the tenure of William Peare, barn of 4 bays, stable of 2 bays, appleyard, garden and curtilage	1 rood	Rent 30*s.* 3½ works. 2 heriots.
Close called Yerses	9 acres	
" " Cross-close	1 "	
" " Lynchers	4 "	
" " Longledge	5 "	
" " Westcliffe	1 "	
" " Bennywales	1 "	
" " Kennie Marshe	1 "	
" " New Close	1 "	
" " Puckester	8 ac. 2 rd.	
" " East Clise [*sic*]	5 acres	
Arable in le Estfield	9 "	
Westfield	1 ac. 2 rd.	
Common for 100 sheep		

To have to said William for the life of said Elizabeth, to Edward and William their sons for their lives successively.

Value to lease - - - £15.

[1] The expression is *annui valoris dimittendum.*

Richard Munt, by copy, dated 9 Oct., 1607, a tenement with 20 acres, late Richard Munt his father's, *viz.*,

Dwelling house of 3 bays, barn of 3 bays, appleyard, garden and curtilage	1 rood	Rent 14*s.* 3 works. heriot.
Close adjoining	3 acres	
„ called Barnclose	1 „	
„ „ Holdes	6 „	
„ „ le Nether Common	1 „	
or Est Cliffe	& 2½ rds.	
„ at Knoles	2 roods	
„ near Est Cliffe	1 acre	
„ in le Westfield	4 ac. 1 rd.	
Arable in Estfield	5 acres	
Common for 60 sheep	-	

To have to said Richard, and to Richard and George his sons, for their lives.

Value to lease - - - £5.

John Downer, by copy, dated 16 Oct., 1595, a tenement or half piece of land called "Blaches," late John Donour, his father's, *viz.*,

Dwelling house of 2 bays, barn of 2 bays, appleyard, garden and curtilage	½ rood	Rent 6*s.* 1 work. heriot.
Close adjoining	4 acres	
„ under Est Cliffe	1 „	
Arable in le Estfield	2 „	
„ „ Westfield	1 „	
Common for 25 sheep	-	

To have to said John, Joan his wife and Dorothy their daughter for their lives.

40*s.*

Value to lease - - - 24*s.* [*sic*].

Thomas Orchard, by copy, dated 5 July, 1601, a tenement, late Nicholas Pratt's, *viz.*,

Dwelling house of 3 bays, barn of 3 bays, stable, appleyard, garden and curtilage	2 roods	Rent 14*s.* 4*d.* 2 days work in summer, 1 in medding. heriot.
Close called Westerparroch	1 „	
„ „ Heydowne	1 acre	
„ under le Cliffe, called Colmans halfe	2 roods	
„ called Creple	1 acre	
Meadow called Orchards mead	2 roods	
Arable in Brokenburries	1 acre	
„ „ le Westfield	5 „	
„ „ „ Estfield	3 ac. 2 rd.	
Common for 50 sheep	-	

To have to the said William Thomas and Robert his sons, for their lives.

£5.

Value to lease - - - £3. 6*s.* 8*d.* [*sic*].

William Trefford, by copy, dated 15 April, 1594, a tenement called "Cliffe," late Isabell Harvye's, *viz.*,

Dwelling house of 3 bays, appleyard, garden and curtilage	2 roods	Rent 18*s.* 2 works. heriot.
Close adjoining	5 ac. 2 rd.	
„ called Westclife	6 acres	
Arable in le Westfield	8 „	
Meadow in le Estfield	2 roods	
Common for 50 sheep	-	

To have to him, Thomas and John, his sons, for their lives.

Value to lease - - - £6.

John Harvey, junior, by copy, dated 10 April, 1595, a tenement called "South place," late John Harvey, his father's, *et Harvyes ex antiquo, viz.*,

Dwelling house of 3 bays, barn of 3 bays, garden and curtilage	—	Rent 11*s.* 1*d.* 1½ days work. heriot.
Close adjoining	2 acres	
„ called [B]urwell (? H)	2 ac. 2 rd.	
„ „ Mead Butt	1 acre	
Arable in Nether Common	1 „	
Pasture in Tarves	1 „	
Arable in le Westfield	10 ac. 2 rd.	
Common for 50 sheep		

To have to him and William (relationship not given) for their lives.

Value to lease - - - £4. 40*s.* [*sic*].

Jane Speed, by copy dated 6 Oct., 1602, one cottage late William Orcharde's, *viz.*,

Dwelling house of 2 bays, barn of 3 bays, garden and curtilage and appleyard	—	Rent 5*s.* 1 work. heriot.
Close adjoining	—	
„ called le Currant	2 acres	
„ „ Heddowne	1 „	
„ „ Limpottes	1 „	
Common for 15 sheep		

To have to her, Philip and Richard, her sons, for their lives.

Value to lease - - - 20*s.*

William Leoper, by copy dated 15 October, 1578, three acres, late Ralph Suddon's, *viz.*,

Land in le Westfield		Rent 3*s.* ½ work. heriot.
„ called Barrowshaye		

To have to him and Thomas, his son, for their lives.

Value to lease - - - 10*s.*

William Newnam, by copy, dated 27 March, 1605, a cottage, &c., late Valentine Cole's, *viz.*,

A barn of 2 bays, appleyard and curtilage	½ rood	Rent 5*s.* 1 work. heriot.
A close lying near le Cote	1½ acres	
„ adjoining	1½ „	
„ called Nether common	1 „	
„ „ Berryes	2 roods	
Arable in le Westfield	2 „	
„ „ Eastfield	2½ acres	
Common for 25 sheep		

For his life. Value to lease - - - 26*s.* 8*d.*

William Spanner, by copy dated 13 October, 1581, tenement called "Upper Burdge," late John Spanner's, *viz.*,

Dwelling house of 3 bays, barn of [4] bays, stable of 1 bay, appleyard, curtilage and garden	1 rood	Rent 16*s.* 1½ works. heriot.
Close called le Cliffe close	2 acres	
„ „ Scarrow	3 „	
„ „ Sea close	1 „	
„ „ Hornesyate	1½ „	
„ „ Hurwell	1½ „	
Arable in le Eastfield	10 „	
„ „ Westfield	1 „	
Common for 50 sheep		

For his life. Value to lease - - - £6.

Daniel Haward, by copy, dated 5 October, 1608, "Buddell Place," late Walter Haward's, *viz.*,

House of 3 bays, barn of 3 bays, stable of 1 bay, appleyard, garden and curtilage	1 rood	Rent 16*s.* 4*d.* 3 works. heriot.
Close called Nether close	2 acres	
" lying to the west thereof	3 "	
" called Upper close	3 "	
" " Pickey	1 "	
" " West cliffe	8 "	
" " Mead close	1½ "	
" " Humpittes	2 "	
" " Hill crofte	2 roods	
Arable in le Eastfield	3 acres	
" " Westfield	3½ "	
Common for 50 sheep	-	

To have to him, Walter Haward, junior, and William Haward, for their lives.

Value to lease - - - £6. 13*s.* 4*d.*

William Goater, in right of his wife, by copy, dated 1 April, 1602, "Puckwell," late John Harvey's, *viz.*,

Dwelling house of 2 bays, barn of 2 bays, stable of 1 bay, appleyard, garden and curtilage	1 rood	Rent 16*s.* 1½ works. heriot.
Close called Puckwell close	1 acre	
" " Qualestones	3 "	
" " White pittes	6 "	
" " Hurwell	1½ "	
Arable in le Eastfield	10 "	
" " Westfield	2 "	
Common for 50 sheep	-	

To have to Jane Goter his wife and to said William and to William their son, for their lives.

Value to lease - - - £6.

William Curtisse, by copy dated 7 April, 1584, a tenement under le Cliffe, common of pasture on Hydowne, Chaleden and Gore, a cottage now occupied as a barn, and a small piece of land in Penny but to the north of the land called Shiplead, late Richard Blowe's, *viz.*,

Dwelling house of 3 bays, barn of 2 bays, stable of 1 bay, appleyard, garden and curtilage with close adjoining	1 acre	Rent 6*s.* [1½] works. heriot.
Close called Nethercommon	1 "	
" " Lymepit	1 "	
" " le Townesend	3 "	
Arable in le Westfield	2 ac. 2 rd.	
Land in le Eastfield	2 rood	
Pasture for 25 sheep	-	

Value to lease - - - 40*s.*

Andrew Ripley, by copy, dated 5 October, 1575, a cottage with pasture, called "Currauntes," *viz.*,

Dwelling house of 2 bays, appleyard, garden and curtilage	½ rood	Rent 12*s.* 4*d.* 1½ works. heriot.
Closes called North Currant, and South do.	8 acres	
Close called Middle Street	1 "	
Pasture for 30 sheep	-	

For his life.

Value to lease - - - £3.

Thomas Meadmore, by copy, dated 10 April, 1595, a tenement, late Henry Collin's, *viz.*,

Dwelling house of 2 bays, barn of 3 bays, stable of 1 bay, appleyard and curtilage	1 rood	Rent 13*s.* 4*d.* 2 works. heriot.
Close adjoining - - - - -	2 acres	
„ called Shitcrofte - - - -	1 „	
„ lying under le East cliffe - - -	2 „	
Arable in le Eastfield - - - -	4 „	
„ „ Westfield - - - -	4½ „	
Close called Linches - - - -	1 „	
Common for 50 sheep - - - -	-	

To have to him, Elizabeth Meadmore his daughter and William Collins for their lives.

Value to lease - - - £6. 6*s.* 8*d.* [*sic*].

Thomas Pettis, by copy, dated 16 October, 1595, "Bullring," late Richard Chambers's, *viz.*,

Dwelling house of 2 bays, barn of 2 bays, appleyard, garden and curtilage - -	1 acre	Rent 14*s.* 3 works. heriot.
Close called Madge Androes - - -	1 „	
Arable in le Eastfield - - - -	3½ „	
„ „ Foredone - - - - -	1 „	
„ „ le Westfield - - - -	8 ac. 1 rd.	
Land lying under le Cliffe - - -	2 acres	
Pasture for 50 sheep - - - -	-	

To have to him, John, his son and Joan, his daughter for their lives.

£5.

Value to lease - - - £4 [*sic*].

LEASES.

Edward Batter claims to hold, by indenture, of the Earl of Southampton, a tenement called "Blackdowne," in Godshill, *viz.*,

Dwelling house, of 3 bays; barn, of 3 bays; stable, of 2 bays; appleyard, garden and curtilage and 2 parrocks adjoining	3 acres	Rent 26*s.* 8*d.*
Close called Munchen land - - -	7 „	
„ „ Little Sturt - - - -	1 „	
„ „ Stinnells - - - -	20 „	
„ „ Gulley close - - - -	10 „	
„ „ North close - - - -	7 „	
„ „ Rye close - - - -	4 „	
„ „ West close - - - -	6 „	
„ „ Pond close - - - -	3 „	
„ „ le little Moore - - -	1½ „	
„ „ le Downe - - - -	30 „	

To have to him and his assigns.

Value to lease - - - £20.

The parishioners of Niton claim to hold, by indenture, of the Earl of Southampton, dated 14 March, 160⅘, the tenement called "le Church house," with land, *viz.*,

A house of 3 bays and garden - - -	½ rood	Rent 4*d.* suit, &c.

To hold for 21 years, doing repairs.

Value to lease - - - 3*s.* 4*d.*

William Peare, by like indenture, dated 3 June, 1605, a messuage, rabbit warren, and lands, parcel of manor of Niton and of the ancient possessions of the Crown (except large timber, mines, courts, &c.), *viz.*,

Dwelling house, of 4 bays; barn, of 4 bays; stable, of 1 bay; appleyard, garden and curtilage	1 acre	Rent £4. 17*s.* 4*d.* Suit, &c.
Close called South Courte	3 ,,	
,, ,, North Courte	3 ,,	
,, ,, Lympites	2 ,,	
,, ,, Cow leys	4 ,,	
,, ,, Hooke	6 ,,	
,, ,, Newclose	8 ,,	
,, ,, Six acres close	6 ,,	
,, ,, Thirteene acres close	13 ,,	
,, ,, Bear close	1 ,,	
,, ,, Frizzen pittes	1 ,,	
A meadow	6 ,,	
Arable land in le Eastfield	45 ,,	
Pasture under le Cliffe	2 ,,	
Common for 200 sheep	-	

To him and his assigns, for 21 years, doing repairs.

Value to lease - - - £40.

CUSTOMARY TENANTS.

William Spanner, in right of his wife, by copy, dated 5 June, 1601, a cottage, &c., and one *esteich*, late Thomas Abram's, *viz.*,

A barn of 3 bays and close adjoining	1 acre	Rent 5*s.* 4*d.* $1\frac{1}{2}$ works. heriot.
Close called "le Paroc" near le Furlong	1 rood	
Arable in le Westfield	2 acres	
Common for 25 sheep	-	

To have to Jane Spanner his wife, William and Edward Spanner (relationship not given) for their lives.

Value to lease - - - 20*s.*

William Orchard, by copy dated 26 April, 1591, a cottage late Thomas Orchard's, *viz.*,

Dwelling house, of 2 bays; appleyard, garden and curtilage	1 rood	Rent 2*s.* 4*d.*
Le Meadbutt	3 ,,	
Pasture for 25 sheep	-	

To have to him and Julia Orchard for their lives.

Value to lease - - - 5*s.*

William Edes, by copy dated 5 June, 1601, two tenements, late Richard Edes's, *viz.*,

Dwelling house, of 3 bays; barn, of 3 bays; stable, of 1 bay; appleyard, garden and curtilage	2 roods	Rent 28*s.* 2 works. 2 heriots.
Close called Rill	6 acres	
,, ,, South Rill	$2\frac{1}{2}$,,	
,, ,, Southerhores	4 ,,	
,, ,, Northerhores	4 ,,	
,, ,, Southerwares	2 ,,	
,, ,, Northerwares	4 ,,	
Meadow in Currant Mead	3 ,,	
Arable in le Furlonge	1 ,,	
,, ,, Westfield	$1\frac{1}{2}$,,	
,, ,, Eastfield	15 ,,	
Land under le Cliffe	1 ,,	
Pasture for 100 sheep	-	

To have to him, Peter and Philip, his sons, for their lives.

Value to lease - - - £13. 6*s.* 8*d.*

METES AND BOUNDS.

Brokenbury Common, on the south of "the Westfield," from Brokenburies pitt to "le South Cliffe" southwards, thence to "le Gore" westwards, and to le Gore hedge, parcel of the land of Richard Worslye, Esq., and thence to Chalden (Chaledown?) northwards, and to the Westfield. 20 acres.

Gore Common, east of Brokenbury Common, by the side of "le Westfield" to Mones acre, and thence to Gore, being Richard Worslye's land on the west, and thence to South Cliffe on the south. 20 acres.

Chaleden Common on the east of le Westfield, thence to Downcomb ground northwards, thence to Wapon (? Walpen) Common westwards, thence by Saint Catherin's ditch to Gore hedge southwards. 70 acres.

Heath Common Downe, from Chaldon on the west side, along by Witcomb on the north to Bottom's hedge on the east, thence to Preston pit on the east, and thence to Chaldon pitt, on the south. 70 acres.

Greneleyd Common, from Werd end and on the south to a parcel of le Eastfield called Necke on the south-east side, thence to Spanner's hedge on the north and to Werd end on the west. 8 acres.

Ereborrough Common, enclosed with le Estfield. 7 acres.

Upon all which commons the King's tenants have pasture as already mentioned, only the farmers by lease have no common in the Estfield nor in Heighdowne.

(The signatures of the jurors and of Oli. Thurgood are annexed.)

SUMMARY OF FOREGOING.

	Acres	Roods
Holdings - - - - - - -	448	2
le Estfield, 113 ac. - } le Westfield, 72 ac. 3 rd. } - - -	185	3
Downlands - - - - - -	195	–
Total acreage - - - -	829	1

	£	s	d
Rental—Copyhold - - - - - -	11	1	1
Leasehold - - - - - -	6	4	0
	£17	5	1

COURT ROLLS, ETC.

There were two kinds of ancient local or manorial Courts, *viz.*, the Court Leet, and the Court Baron, the Court Leet[1] being the rarer of the two, and was a court of record appointed to be held once a year, within a particular hundred, lordship or manor, before the steward of the leet, being the King's Court granted by Charter to the lords of those hundreds or manors. Its original intent was to view the franc-pledges, that is the freemen within the liberty who, according to the institution of Alfred, were all mutually pledges for the good behaviour of each other. It was anciently the custom to summon all the King's subjects, as they respectively grew to years of discretion and strength, to come to the Court Leet and there take the oath of allegiance to the King. The other general business is to present by jury all crimes whatsoever that happen within their jurisdiction; and, not only to present, but also to furnish all trivial misdemeanours, as all trivial debts were recoverable in the Court-baron and County Court, etc. The Court-baron,[2] a court which, although not one of record, was incident to every manor. It was

[1] Wharton's *Law Lexicon*, p. 215. [2] *Ibid.*, p. 214.

ordained for the maintenance of the services and duties stipulated for by lords of manors, and for the purpose of determining actions of a personal nature where the debt or damage was under forty shillings. The Court was frequently held together with the Court-leet, etc.

The Courts were held once or twice a year in the open air. The place of assembly would doubtless be chosen for its accessibility to the freemen and other persons having to attend the meeting. The Court for Niton and Whitwell was held at "la hatte." The site cannot now, after the lapse of centuries, be identified with certainty, but it is singular, and at the same time suggestive, that the highest point in the chalk range, running through the two parishes, is known to-day as "high hat." It is probable that this may have been the site where the Court-leets were anciently held.

The earliest Court Roll appertaining to Niton, preserved in the Public Record Office, is that of 2 Edward IV (1462). A transcript of the original roll is given below:—[1]

ESTMEDINE.

Visus Franci-plegii tentus apud la hatte undecimo die Maii anno [anno regis Edwardi] quarti post conquestum Anglie secundo.

Whitewell. Certum iij *s*. Decennarius ibidem venit cum tota decenna sua. Et dat de certo ad hunc diem xij *d*. Et de communi fine ij *s*. Et ulterius presentat quod Johannes Carne, carnifex, vendidit carnem excessive. Ideo ipse in misericordia iiij *d*. Item, quod Johannes Gilbard molendinarius cepit tolnetum excessive. Ideo ipse in misericordia v *d*. Item dicit quod Robertus Orchard nondum apperuit viam regiam vocatam Mirablys obstipatam ad nocumentum sicut, ei preceptum fuit. Ideo ipse in misericordia iiij *d*. Et nichilominus preceptum est ei illam emendare citra proximam, etc. Misericordia xiij *d*.

Niton. Decennarius ibidem venit cum tota decenna sua. Et dat [de c]erto ad hunc diem ij *s*. Et de communi fine iiij *s*. Et presentat omnia alia bene.

(memb. 3.) Estmedine. Visus Franciplegii tentus apud la Hatte xij^mo^ die Octobris anno regni regis Edwardi iiij^tl^ secundo, etc.

Whytewell. Certum iij *s*. Decennarius ibidem sua decenna presentat de Certo ad hunc diem xij *d*. Et de communi fine ij *s*. Item, presentat Johannes Carne carnifex vendidit carnem excessive etc. iiij *d*. Ideo ipse in misericordia. Item, presentat quod Thomas Kene molendarius cepit tolnetum excessive etc. iiij *d*. Ideo ipse in misericordia. Item, presentat quod Robertus Orchard non dum aperuit sicut ei preceptum fuit viam regiam vocatam Mirablys obstupatam ad nocumentum in defectu suo etc. vj *d*. Ideo ipse in misericordia. Et nichilominus preceptum est ei ipsam aperire citra proximam etc. Misericordia xiv *d*.

Nyton. Certum vj *s*. Decennarius ibidem cum tota sua decenna, (et dat) de Certo ad hunc diem ij *s*. Et de communi fine iiij *s*. Item, presentat quod Johannis Lambard braciavit j fregit assisam et vendidit cervisiam per falsam mensuram vj *d*. Ideo ipse in misericordia. Et decennarius ibidem in misericordia quia non protulit secum illam mensuram etc. i *d*. Et omnia alia bene. Misericordia vij *d*.

[1] *List of Court R.*, Portfolio 202, No. 6 (P. Rec. Off.).

Translation.

ESTMEDINE (Membrane 1).

View of franc-pledge held at "la hatte" the eleventh day of May in the second year of the reign of King Edward the ivth after the Conquest.

Whitewell. Cert-money 3*s*. Fines xiij *d*.	The tithing man has come there with his tything and gives of cert-money for this day xij *d*. and of ordinary fines 2 shillings. And further presents—that John Carne the butcher has sold at excessive (price) iiij *d*. Therefore he is in mercy.[1] And that John Gilbard, the miller, has taken excessive toll, iiiij *d*. Therefore he is in mercy. And says—that Robert Orchard has not yet thrown open the King's highway, by Mirables, which he had blocked up to the injury (of the public) as he had been ordered, iiij *d*. Therefore he is in mercy. And nevertheless orders had been given to repair it before the next (court).
Niton.	The tything man has come there with his tything. And gives of cert-money for this day 2 shillings. And of ordinary fines 4 shillings. And he presents that all things are well.

EST MEDINE (Membrane 3).

View of franc-pledge held at "la hatte" the 12th day of October in the second year of the reign of King Edward the ivth, etc.

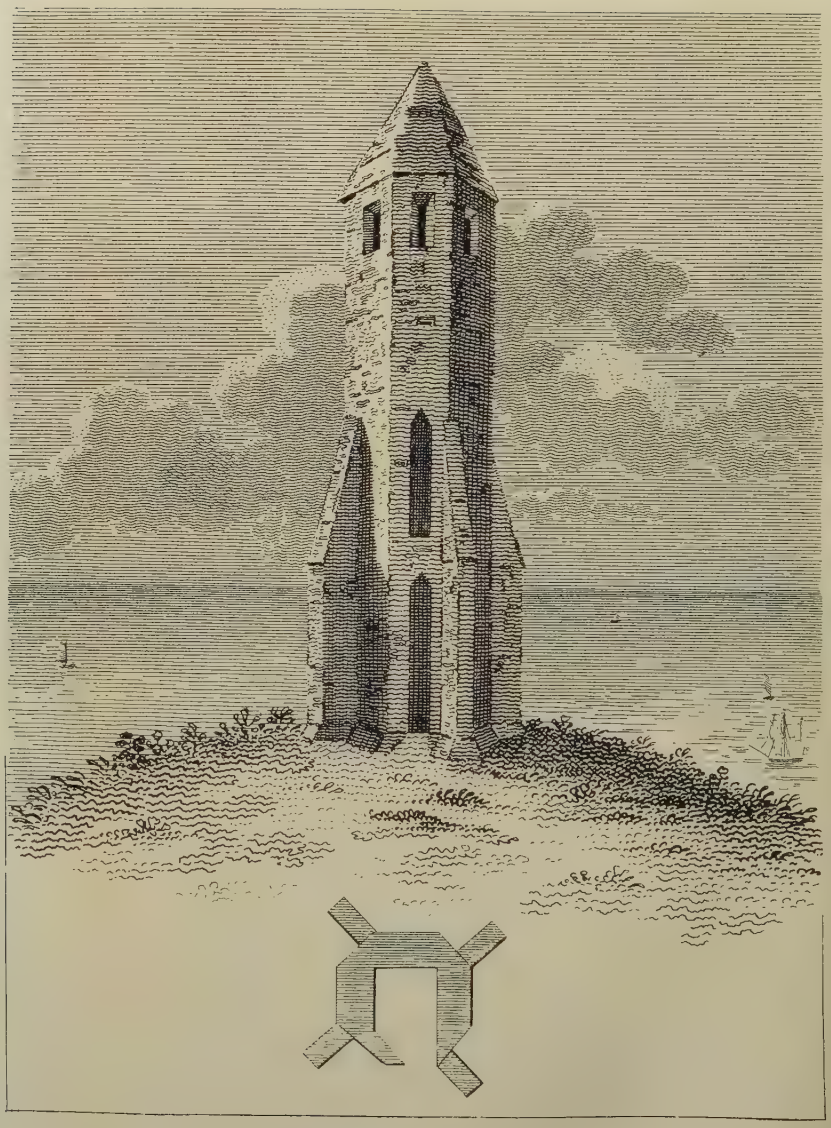
Whytewell. Cert-money 3*s*. Fines xiv *d*.	The tything man has come there with his tything. And presents of cert-money for this day xij pence. And of ordinary fines 2 shillings. And presents that John Carne, butcher, has sold meat at excessive (price) etc. iiij *d*. Therefore he is in mercy. And he presents that Thomas Kene, the miller, has taken excessive toll, etc. iiij *d*. Therefore he is in mercy. And he presents that Robert Orchard has not yet thrown open, as he had been ordered, the King's highway, called Mirables, which he had blocked up, etc. vj *d*. Therefore he is in mercy. Nevertheless he has been ordered to open before the next Court, etc.
Nyton. Cert-money 6*s*. Fines 7*d*.	The tithing man has come there with his tything. And presents of cert-money for this day 2 shillings. And of ordinary fines iv shillings. And he presents that John Lambard has brewed and broken the assize and has sold beer by false measure vj pence. Therefore he is in mercy. And the tything man there is in mercy because he has not produced (with him) that measure, etc., i *d*. And all other things are well.

COURTS HELD AT "LA HATTE."[2]

Portfolio	202,	No.	41,	1–3–4	Edward IV.		
,,	,,	,,	42,	5 to	7	Henry VIII.	
,,	,,	,,	43,	7 ,,	10	,,	,,
,,	,,	,,	44,	10 ,,	11	,,	,,
,,	,,	,,	45,	12 ,,	14	,,	,,
,,	,,	,,	46,	15 ,,	18	,,	,,
,,	,,	,,	47,	18 ,,	22	,,	,,
,,	,,	,,	48,	22 ,,	26	,,	,,
,,	,,	,,	49,	26 ,,	29	,,	,,

[1] *id. est.* fined, otherwise amerced, in a small sum.

[2] *List of Court Rolls*, General Ser. (Pub. Rec. O.).



St. Catherine's Tower, 1801.

Chapter XII.

"Oft in this bay—the dark o'erwhelming deep
Mocks the poor pilot's skill, and braves his sighs;
O'er the high deck the frothy billows sweep,
And the fierce tempest drowns the sea-boys cries."—*Old Song.*

OF LIGHTHOUSES—WRECKS OF THE SEA, SMUGGLING, Etc.

The southern coast of the Isle of Wight must always have been very dangerous to mariners, owing to the conformation of the coast line, the many hidden reefs, and the existence of strong currents—"The high lands of St. Albans, in Dorsetshire, and St. Catherine's Point, in the Isle of Wight, form a great bay, and in blowing weather, with the wind to the south-west, hardly any vessel that gets within it escapes without coming ashore."[1]

Numerous stories are told of the shipwrecks that have taken place off this coast, and a winter seldom passed without a number of vessels being wrecked in Chale Bay.

The earliest intimation of any preventive measures having been taken to provide a light for warning ships from approaching too near to the dangerous coast off St. Catherine's Point is given in the Winchester register of Bishop Woodlock. It records the admission of one Walter de Langeberewe to the hermitorium situated on the top of Chale Down:

"dominum Walterum de Langeberewe ad hermitorium super Montem de Chale in insula Vecta nostræ diocesis in honore Sanctæ Katerinæ Virginis construendum et reparandum, quantum in nobis est, admisimus et quod in capella ibidem construenda divinia celebrare poterit, etc., 1 d. Oct. 1312."[2]

"It is thus manifest," writes the Rev. Charles Cox, "that a hermitage existed on the high grounds of Chale prior to 1312. It is impossible to say and idle to conjecture for how long before this date a hermitage and chapel, with a beacon light attached to it, had existed on these lonely downs; but it seems clear that one had existed here sufficiently long to require rebuilding, and that it had been endowed by a pious founder with some slender stipend. Had it been a mere hermitage dependent on alms the entry would not have appeared in this form in the diocesan register. Had it at that date been first endowed, some record of the founder, however brief, would doubtless have appeared."[3]

Two years elapse ere the next phase relating to the primitive light thus referred to is entered upon and is connected with a shipwreck occurring off this coast. The story runs that a ship of Bayonne freighted with white wines of the duchy of Acquitaine sailing to the

[1] Pennants, *I. of W.*, vol. ii, p. 188.
[2] Woodlock Bishop, *Wynton Reg.*
[3] Cox, *County Churches I. of W.*, p. 76.

coast of Flanders, was wrecked on the hidden reef known as Atherfield Ledge in Chale Bay. Many of the sailors, however, escaped and came ashore. What then occurred is not clear. The story goes that certain persons would appear to have conspired together to dispute the ownership of the wines, with the result that one, Remigius de Depe, the claimant, was lodged in Winchester Gaol to await his trial. The particulars appear on a Patent Roll, 7 Edward II :—

1313. July 24. Westminster. "Association of John Randolph, with Thomas de Warblinton, John de Grymstede, and John le Flemyng, in a Commission of oyer and terminer issued touching a complaint by Elias Biger, Frederick Campanare, and Bernard de Columers, merchants of the Duchy of [Aquitaine]. They had freighted a ship called the *St. Mary of Bayonne,* with 174 tuns of white wine at the town of Tormay, on the river Charrante, in Poitou, for conveyance to England, and on the voyage the vessel was driven ashore on the coast of the Isle of Wight, where the wine was seized as 'wreck of sea' by divers men of the county of Southampton, notwithstanding that many of the mariners escaped alive to the land."[1]

The other side of the story is related ten months later in the same series of Rolls :—

1314. May 26. Newcastle-on-Tyne. "Commission of Oyer and Terminer to Master John de Everesdon and John de Westecote, on complaint by John Besecu that, whereas a ship of Remigius de Depe, merchant of Bayonne, freighted with white wines in the duchy of [Aquitaine] to be carried to the ports of Flanders by the said Remigius de Depe and his men, was driven ashore by tempest near Chale, in the Isle of Wight, and wrecked, by which a great part of the wine was endangered, and the said Remigius de Depe proved that the ship and wines were his, and afterwards obtained that proof and made his profit therein. Robert de Harslade, John le Walshe, and Reynum Arnold having made a plot to injure him and conspired with certain others, at Newport, in the same island, that Elias Byger, Fretheric de Campane and Bernard de Columeners, unknown men, should lay claim to the ship and wines, and that the said John Besecu should be indicted of having committed a theft of the wines from them, as if the wines had been their property when they were not, and as if Remigius de Depe had not proved that the ship and wines were his; procured his capture and detention for a long time, in prison at Winchester, until according to the law and custom of the realm he was acquitted: The justices are to enquire fully into these allegations, by oath of good men of the county of Southampton."[2]

In the meantime the 174 casks of wine had been sold, and since each cask was valued at five marks (a mark's value was 13*s.* 4*d.*) the amount taken was considerable. With reference to the allegation that the wine was seized as "wreck of the sea" by divers men of the county, it may be said, in explanation thereof, that from the earliest times lords of manors abutting on the sea front claimed "wreck of sea" as belonging to them. Sir Thomas Langford, having leased out his manor of Chale, specially reserved the rights and emoluments coming from this source.[3] It was shown, however, at the inquiry, that the cargo formed no "wreck of the sea." Further particulars appear in the Abbreviation of Pleas, 8 Edward II, giving an abstract of the pleadings in the King's Bench :—

"Ex gravi querela quorundem mercatorum ducatus domini Regis Aquitaniæ

[1] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 7 Edw. II, p. 55.
[2] *Ibid.*, p. 149.
[3] W., *Hist.*, p. 245.

quod ipsi carcaverunt diversa dolea vini albi pro Anglia in quibusdam navibus unde una navis in veniendo versus Angliam super mare in costera Insule de Wight per venti contrarietatem et maris intemperiem ibidem ad terram projecta fuit et confracta vinaque predicta ad terram in diversis partibus in insula predicta devenerunt et quod quidam malefatores de com. Suth' vina predicta licet plures marinarii. . . . . Per quod dominus Rex assignavit justiciarios quod inde inquierunt per legales homines . . . . Qui retornaverunt quod dicta Vina surrepta fuere per diversos homines de insula predicta set precipue per Walterum de Godeton et iij alii usque ad numeram centum lx et xiiij doleorum vini albi plenorum et semiplenorum precii dolei v marcas. . . . Set per alium juratorem computatum est quod predictus Walterus et duo alii liij dolea vinorum predictorum precii dolei v marcas, etc."[1]

It appears, therefore, that Walter de Godeton and other local landowners were involved, either in the seizure or by purchasing the wine. Ultimately the jurors returned a verdict to the effect that since Walter, with others, had unlawfully received fifty-three casks of the wine, they must pay for them the sum of 227½ marks, etc. Here the matter should have terminated, but, inasmuch as the wine appears to have belonged to a religious community—the monastery of Livers, in Picardy, a further charge of sacrilege was preferred against De Godeton. For his misdeeds it is stated that he was threatened by the Pope with divers pains and penalties. In expiation, and as a token of contrition, he was ordered to build, on the down above the scene of the disaster, a lighthouse to warn ships off the dangerous coast, and further to assign certain rents for a chaunting priest to sing masses for the repose of the souls of Walter, his ancestors, and those lost at sea.

A further record appears in the Winchester registers of Bishop Stratford, having reference to the foregoing. "In a communication to the Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight, the Bishop mentions the fact that Walter de Godston (Godeton) had assigned certain rents for the sustentation of the oratory on Chale Downs, for the maintaining of a clear light on every night on those dangerous parts of the sea-board, whereby divers perils to those navigating the seas might be avoided, and also provided a sufficient endowment for the other uses of the oratory."[2] The writer goes on to discuss the surmise as to there being "two small establishments on these desolate downs, the one a hermitage and the other this lighthouse and oratory of Godeton's founding, both dedicated to St. Catherine. Having seen the original entries, and having studied at first hand the entries as to hermitages in a score of cases in the early diocesan records, Mr. Cox says:—"There is no doubt whatever that the 1328 entry refers to the same establishment as that of 1312, and that Walter de Godeton reconstructed the lighthouse and oratory, putting the endowment on a more satisfactory footing. A hermitage of mediæval England differed *in toto* from an ankerhold or dwelling for a recluse. I know of no case," he adds, "of a hermitage where the hermit had not some definite practical work assigned to him, the repair of a bridge, the mending of a causeway leading thereto, or the guarding of a ford."[3]

[1] *Abbrev. Placitor*, Hill. Term, 8 Edw. II, 1195—1327.
[2] Cox, *County Churches, I. W.*, p. 77.
[3] *Ibid.*, p. 78.

These duties were performed and the light continued to shine till the Reformation when at the dissolution of the chantries, *temp.* Henry VIII, the prayers of the priest, and the more efficacious security derived from the light-house, were involved in one common ruin, and both light and chantry disappeared. It was perhaps found impracticable to divide the useful from the superstitious part of the foundation, so that the whole fell together, the chantry involving the primitive light-house in its ruin. Neither of them was ever restored, yet the little tower, still called St. Catherine's, survived and continued to serve as a guide to mariners by day.

Of the building erected by Walter de Godyton the foundations only remain. These were excavated, in 1757, by Sir Richard Worsley, and the form of the chapel was disclosed. The tower of the chapel stood at the west end, having four distinct storeys, and was 35ft. 6in. high, octangular without and quadrangular within, finished with a pyramidal roof, each side, interior as well as exterior, being four feet square. "The lower part was perhaps used as a belfry to the chapel of the Hermitage. Its upper story was evidently constructed as a lighthouse for the direction of mariners. It is of plain, but neat masonry. Just beneath the roof it is pierced with eight small windows, whose openings diminish inwards, and all tend to the centre of the building. This construction, which would have been ill calculated for the admission of light from without, is perfectly well contrived for its diffusion from within." The tower—towards the close of the 18th century—was again put into a state of thorough repair, so that it appears capable of withstanding, for another century, the stormy blasts which rage at this elevation. Worsley speaks of the priests' little cell, being found at the south-west corner close to the tower. Mr. Percy Stone, in his excavations undertaken in 1891, says he could find no trace of it, so must conclude Worsley was wrong in his bearings, and meant the walls of the oratory, which I successfully uncovered without finding anything of interest beyond the mere foundations.[1]

The tower stood on the summit of St. Catherine's Down, 781 feet above sea level. "When standing on this airy summit it is impossible not to picture to the mind the venerable inhabitant of this cell lifted almost out of the habitable world, and only recalled to it by the charitable care of his friendly lamp; mingling his nightly orisons with the howling of the storm, and pouring forth prayers for the safety of those whose anxious eyes were strained with watching for its welcome ray, twinkling by fits through the sweeping clouds."

"The view from the hill," writes Mr. Thorne (*The Land we live in*), "is of wondrous extent, reaching over by far the larger part of the island, and including the New Forest, the hills of Hampshire, and the south coast as far as Beachy Head."

The ancestors of Walter de Godyton are found mentioned in the feodary, 8 Edward I :—"Will'us de Godditon tenet dimidium feodi apud

[1] Stone, Percy, *Archit. Ant. I. of W.*, vol. ii, p. 29.

Hale," and a later reference to the same manor is entered in a Close Roll, under date July 26th, 1352 :—

1352. July 26. "The King appointed William de Ryngebourn, Theobald de Gorges, and John de Kyngesdon, to take an inquisition and it is found that a manor called Hale was lately half a Knight's fee, that William de Godyton now held it entire of the manor of Gatecombe in demesne . . . that the manor was not divided after the death of William de Hale and that Richard atte Hale held the messuage and land of Robert de Godyton by the service of a fourth part of a Knight's fee," etc.[1]

The manor of Godyton is found under its modern name of "Gotten," as a farm situated on the north-east slope of Chale Down. In 1780 the Trinity Board, recognising the value of the ancient tower as a landmark, and desiring to re-establish the light, substantially repaired the tower, and, at an expense of £7,000, erected another pharos by its side. This light was soon found to be useless in bad weather when most wanted, for the high hills are almost always enveloped in clouds, and of course the lanthorns invisible at any little distance. Pennant, from whom the quotation is taken, mentions that "From mistaking this light for the Portland lights, a Dutch frigate of 36 guns and 250 men came bump ashore and was beat to pieces, and though most of the crew were saved at last, the surf ran so high it was one night and two days before they could be brought off." "I was," he adds, "the means of saving eight men, by bribing a desperate smuggler to go off to them in his boat."[2]

In bygone days the south side of the island obtained an unenviable notoriety from the behaviour on these occasions of the people living on the coast strip. The ingenious Mr. J. Sturch, of Newport, writing on the Isle of Wight in 1756, says :—

"The Country People, of the meaner Sort, have for many years been too much accustomed to make a barbarous Advantage of these Misfortunes, plundering and carrying off the Merchants Effects in a most unjust and infamous Manner," adding—"of late this savage Practice has been much suppressed."[3]

Albin, writing in 1795, tells us "The inhabitants are usually more intent on plundering than on affording assistance to the distressed and shipwrecked mariner." A year later, Tomkins, in his *Tour of the Island*, refers "to an inhuman stratagem practised by the inhabitants of Chale"—adding that it has too much the air of fiction to be seriously credited—"on every stormy night the unwary mariner is allured to his destruction by fixing a lantern to the head of an old horse, one of whose legs had been previously tied up. The limping gait of the animal gave the lantern a kind of motion, exactly similar to that of a ship's light, and led the deceived pilot on these fatal rocks, to fall a prey to merciless plunderers."

In consequence of this atrocious behaviour—whether here or elsewhere—it was enacted in the reign of George II "That death was to be

[1] *Cal. Cl. R.*, 1349—1354.
[2] Pennants, *Journey to the I. W.*, vol. ii, p. 189.
[3] *The General Magazine of Arts and Sciences*, p. 122.

the punishment for hanging out false lights, also for stealing goods from a wreck."

Behaviour of this kind could not have been notorious here, or very general, since we find Gilpin, in 1798, writing :—" There is another picturesque circumstance frequently seen on the coasts of the Isle of Wight, which may be mentioned, though it is a dreadful one. A winter seldom passes in which the inhabitants of these dangerous coasts are not called together to see some dreadful event (a wreck) of this kind. Long experience has taught them to judge when the mischief is inevitable. They see that every wave which beats over the perishing vessel drives her nearer some reef of rocks, well known to them, though the seaman knows it not; signals can be of no use; yet they make what signals they can to point out the danger. In a short moment the dreadful crash arrives. The labouring vessel, now beating among the rocks, gives way in every part, and the hospitable islanders, very unlike their neighbours on the Cornish Coast, have nothing left but to do everything in their power to save the miserable people, and recover what they can from the wreck."

From the earliest period " wreck of the sea, waifs and estrays," pertained to the lordship of the island. At an inquisition taken on the death of Baldwin de Redvers, 47 Henry III (1263), " the jurors also say that wreck of the sea belonging to the lord of the castle is worth 4*s*. per annum." During the countess Isabella's tenure the claim was contested by the abbot of Quarr, by John de Insula, owning Bonchurch and other Undercliff estates, by Sir Thomas de Aula, of St. Lawrence, and the lady Matilda de Estur, of Old Park, in Whitwell parish, on the plea that each of them was entitled to one-half of whatever should be wrecked on their respective lands, as a compensation or salvage for preserving the other half for the use of the lord." The trial took place before the Justices Itinerant, at Winchester, 8 Edward I (1280), when " Isabella, countess of Albermarl, was summoned to show to the Lord the King, by what warrant she thus claimed to have wreck of the sea, and Isabella comes and saith that she and all her ancestors, from the time of king Richard, and also before that time always unto the present time have had their wreck of the sea in her fee of the Isle of Wight without any interruption." The story is given in Hillier's unfinished *History of the Isle of Wight,* and " The jury being chosen, say upon oath, ' that the aforesaid Countess and also all her ancestors, from the time whereof memory doth not exist, had such wreck of the sea in her fee,' etc., and by an order of the Itinerant Justices the rights of the Countess were confirmed."[1]

In 1416, 3 Henry V, is entered the following :—

" Edwardus Dux Ebor'.

Insula de Wight et Caresbrok Castr' infra eundem et totum dominium addict' insulam et castrum pertinens cum wrecco maris. . . ."[2]

[1] Hillier, *Hist. and Antiq. I. W.*, pt. ii, p. 95.
[2] *Cal. Inq. p.m.*, vol. iv.

The "revenue of wrecks" was granted as a royal franchise to lords of manors, and the Wardens of the Island claimed this privilege. Worsley writes:—"When the Lordship was in Prince Edward, Sir Henry Tyeys was Warden under him, a petition was exhibited against him to the Parliament by Ralph de Gorges (of Knighton, I. of W.), complaining that he (Sir Henry Tyeys) had defrauded the lord of part of the salvage of a wreck," etc.[1] The lords of the manor of Ashey, which included the sub-manor of Knyghton, claimed to have all wrecks of the sea on the north side of the island between Ryde and Binstead, as far beyond low water mark as a man could reach the ground with an oar, 18ft. long, as their property.

The result of the inquiry is entered on a Patent Roll:—

1320. Nov. 15. Westminster. "Commission of Oyer and Terminer to John de Bello Campo of Somersete (and others), touching the petition, exhibited before the King's Council, of Ralph de Gorges, alleging that divers trespasses and other malpractices under colour of office had been committed as well against the King, Edward, earl of Chester and lord of the Isle of Wight, his son, as against men of the county of Southampton and of the said Island, by Henry le Tyeys and John de Burton and other ministers of the said Henry during the time the same Henry was Constable of the said Island."[2]

And later, in the same series of Rolls, is entered:—

1321. July 2. Westminster. "Grant to Ralph de Gorges, lately taken prisoner while on the King's service and ransomed afterwards, of 500 marks towards his ransom, to be received out of the first money accruing from the £1000 by which Henry Tyeys lately made fine for trespasses against the King, Edward, earl of Chester, in the Isle of Wight of which he was convicted. . . ."[3]

As the commerce between the continent and the mainland increased in volume this asset must have become much more valuable. It possibly explains the effort the early manorial lords seem to have made to secure a sea-frontage on the exposed south side of the Island, however contracted the area might be.

The phrase "flotsam and jetsam" is often used, but the true meaning is not always fully understood. In order to constitute a legal wreck the goods must come to land. If they continue at sea the law distinguishes them by the above terms. "Jetsam" is applied where goods are cast into the sea, and there sink and remain under water; "flotsam," where the goods continue floating on the surface of the waves, and a third term, "ligan," where they are sunk in the sea, but tied to a cork or buoy to be found again, a mode of procedure endeared to the heart of many a bygone smuggler.

The following deed is of interest, as showing that some of the rights claimed by the "Lords of the Island" in early days still appertained to the later governorship:—

"An agreement between Richard Worsley, Captaine of the Isle of Wight, and certyn Merchaunts of London, concerning Goods wrecked on the Island, 35 Henry VIII (1544).

[1] Worsley, *Hist.*, p. 88.
[2] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 1317—1321, Edw. II, p. 546.
[3] *Ibid.*, p. 596.

This Indenture made the vijth day of March in the xxxvth year of the Reign of our Sovereigne Lord Henry 8th by the Grace of God of Ingland, Fraunce and Ireland, Kyng, Defender of the Faith and on Erth immediately under God suppreme Hed of the Church of Ingland and Ireland. Betweene Richard Worsleye, Esqyer, Captaine of the Isle of Wight in the Countie of Sutht' of the one partie and us as well the Merchaunts and Laders as Factors, attourneys, and Deputies for the Merchauntts Laders of the Citie of London of and in a Ship namyed the 'Concepcion of Castric' lately perished and lost at a place called the Donne-Nose within the said Isle of Wight of the other partie. Witnesseth that the saide Merchauntts, Laders, Factors, Attorneys and Deputies for and in behalfe of the Merchauntts and Owners of al the Goods and Merchaundises conteyned within the saide Ship by these Presents hath covenanted concluded and fully agreed to and with the said Richard Worsleye in manner and forme followinge that is to say the seyd Richard Worsleye to have for the Recovery and Savying of all such merchaundises as yu the seyd Ship was laden and styvyn from hensforth as well brode Clothes, Screytes, Dosens, Kersies and Cottons as also Hides, Calf Skynnes, Tallowe, Pewter and other Marchandises wherewith the seyd Ship was laden as the saide Richard Worsleye shall save and recover or by any manner of meanes bring into his possession or Custodie as wel in hole clothes as Remnants and Pieces to the Behoof and Profit of us the seyd Merchauntts and Laders the fourthe part for his paines and charges of all the seyd Wares so hereafter by him savid and recovered. The saide Richard Worsleye delyveryng or causyng to be delyvered to uss the seyd Merchauntts or to owre assignes the other three partes clere of all manner of Costs and Charges which he shall do or cause to be done about the sayvng and recoveryng off the same. And the saide Richard shall also cause the saide Clothes as well hole as in pecys to be washyd, driyd, and delyverid to the seide Merchauntts or to theire assignes the seide three parts clere at the Key of the Town of Newporte within the seide Ile at his ppre Costs and Charges. In Witness whereof the parties aforesaide to these present Indentures have interchangeably set their Seales.

Per me Rolandu Stap. (L.S.)

Dunnose, where the disaster happened, is a well-known and dangerous point on the coast near Luccombe, and here, in recent years, several shipping disasters have occurred, notably the wreck of H.M.S. *Eurydice*.

From a note entered in a Calendar of State Papers it would seem attention had been drawn to the dangerous coast near by Dunnose :—

"1661. Nov. 16. Reference to the Trinity House of the Petition of Edward Penruddock, for setting up a light house on the western coast and Dunnose Point on the south of the Isle of Wight."[1]

The foregoing "Notes" may very fitly conclude with a brief description of the well-known lighthouse situated at St. Catherine's Point, in the parish of Niton.

St. Catherine's Lighthouse.

After the primitive light disappeared in consequence of the chantry endowments having been taken away in the reign of Henry VIII, no further attempt to lessen the dangers of navigation was made until the year 1780. In this year the Brethren of the Trinity House erected a lighthouse on the top of the down near to the western boundary of the parish of Niton. This, however, proved useless on account of the misty vapours which so frequently obscured the summit of the hill, when the mariners had most need of the lights' friendly aid.

[1] *Cal. S. P. Dom. Ser.*, 1661—1662, p. 149.

The wreck of the *Clarendon* forced the necessity for better lighthouse provision on the authorities, and in 1838 they commenced the erection of one placed lower down near St. Catherine's Point, on a terrace eighty-one feet above high water mark.

The light was first exhibited in 1840. The burners consisted of four concentric wicks, surrounded by six refractors, on Sir David Brewster's principle, two hundred and twenty plate-glass mirrors, and at the back four spherical reflectors. Its great utility was shown from the first by the fewer disasters that took place, contrasted with those of former years, when no winter passed away without some fearful mishap, and fourteen vessels have been known to be wrecked in one night in Chale Bay.

Various great improvements in the methods of illumination have since been made, as scientific knowledge in this special work advanced, and it can now be said with perfect truth that St. Catherine's is the Channel light "*par excellence,*" and offers the latest expression of the advances made in lighthouse illumination.

The present light belongs to what is known as the group-flashing system first brought forward in 1874. In recent years what are called "lightning lights" have come into use, and this new system, in which the weight of the apparatus is supported on mercury, and the friction consequently reduced to a minimum, has made it possible to rotate the optical apparatus at a much higher speed than formerly, with the result that the duration of the flash has, in many cases, been reduced to one-tenth of a second.

This principle of revolution on mercury instead of on rollers is one of two valuable improvements effected in lighthouse work in recent years. Not only does it secure a great reduction in the amount of friction, but it means a saving in the driving force. Whereas the clock weight required at St. Catherine's on the old roller system was about one ton, the revolutions on mercury take only about seven hundredweight, or little more than a third of the former weight.

One of the latest applications of the new system has been to the well-known lighthouse here. The optic is mounted on a revolving table, which is carried upon a cast-iron annular float revolving in a bath of mercury. In this case it takes 816lbs. of mercury to float the revolving apparatus.

So far the electric light has been very sparingly adopted. Only four among the many lights controlled by Trinity House are electrically illuminated, these being St. Catherine's, the Lizard, the South Foreland, and the Souter Point, on the south coast.

The St. Catherine's light was quite recently provided with a new optical apparatus, in place of the dioptric lens with sixteen sides, and exhibiting a single flash at intervals of thirty seconds. The new optic is four sided, with a vertical angle of 139 degrees. Its flash is of wonderful intensity, and the reflection of the beam can, in anything like clear weather, be seen from the Channel Islands. For hyper-radial lights

the necessary optical apparatus made up of a large number of prismatic rings, converging to a central lens, costs from £2,000 to £3,000 alone, while the average price of a good lantern is some £1,200 additional.

Lighthouses are classified according to the power of their beams. The largest of all have the hyper-radial apparatus, the lens of which has a focal distance of 1,330 millimetres—that is, a radius of about fifty-two inches, and having a lantern fourteen feet in diameter, as contrasted with the "First of the six Orders," in which the lights were divided at an earlier period, with its lantern of twelve feet in diameter and a radius of 920 millimetres or a little over three feet.

To stand beneath the tower on a clear night and watch the brilliant beams of light reaching the horizon is a marvellous sight.

SMUGGLERS AND SMUGGLING.

"We'll go down among the Needle Rocks,
And put them all ashore, O!
Back again to Cherbourg,
And take in some more, O!—*Old Song.*

Till within a comparatively recent period "the back of the Wight," and more particularly that part of it known to-day as the Undercliff, was a sort of *terra incognita* to the rest of the Islanders and to the people over on the mainland, "overners," as they were called. This isolation accounts in some measure for the lawless spirit, which would seem—judging from the reports which appear in contemporary annals—to have been present here from the earliest times, and to have infected the whole seafaring population along the sea front between Bembridge and Freshwater.

A large traffic in contraband goods was carried on between the Isle of Wight and the opposite coast of France. This illicit trade attained its maximum height during the disturbed state which prevailed on the continent, between 1780 and 1840, when it is said that four of every six seafaring men took an active part in connection therewith.

Occasional ventures of even a more reprehensible kind occurred from time to time. An instance of this nature is detailed in the Patent Rolls:—

1317. July 22. Nottingham. "Commission of oyer and terminer to John de Foxle, John de Stonore and Richard de Borhunt on complaint by Nicholas de Castre, merchant of Spain, that Geoffrey de Yonge, of Brerding . . . . with others, boarded a ship of his off the coast between Portesmuth, co. Southampton, and the Isle of Wight, assaulted his men and carried away his goods, etc."[1]

The questions affecting the legality of the proceedings were possibly never entertained, or, perhaps, tacitly ignored. The love of adventure and excitement attendant upon it were the primary motives with many of those who took part, and any schemes which tended to dispel the monotony of village life were heartily welcomed by the younger members

[1] *Cal. Pat. R.*, 1317—1321.

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Smugglers at Freshwater Cave.

(From an old Print.)

of the community. With others, the inducement to add something to the precarious livelihood obtained by them as fishermen was too strong to be suppressed. It affected all classes, so that to be taken red-handed did not prejudice the offenders socially with their neighbours, and consequently the traffic in contraband goods extended its ramifications throughout the coast villages, from Bembridge to Freshwater. In Bishop Wykeham's register reference is made to "a writ of summons being issued, in 1394, against the rector of Freshwater, on a charge of smuggling wool to France."

In the earlier years only a few excisemen—preventive men as they were at first called—were stationed along the sea-front. They were also inadequately paid, with the result that they were lukewarm in their efforts to prevent, even if they did not covertly acquiesce and share in the profits accruing from the smuggling ventures themselves.

Two remarkable incidents in the Isle of Wight in connection with the contraband trade are related, and, on account of them, material alterations took place in the general "Laws of the King." Before the year 1733 it was the practice of the Courts at Winchester, when issue was found between Plaintiff and Defendant, that a writ of "*Venire Facias Juratores*" should be awarded by which the sheriff was commissioned to summon twelve men (*liberos et legales Homines*) to try the cause. But by the Statute of George III, commonly called the "Balloting Act," it is enacted :—

"That the Sheriff of the County to which the return of the Venire shall belong, shall annex a panel of the said writ, containing the names, additions, and places of abode of a competent number of Jurors, qualified to serve on Juries, not less than 48, or more than 72, for the Trial of Issues, at the Assizes in each County."

And by section II of the same statute it is enacted :—

"That the names of each and every Person, so impanelled shall be written, on distinct pieces of parchment or paper, and delivered to the Marshalls to be put into a Box or Glass, and when any cause is brought to trial, some indifferent person shall, in open Court, draw twelve of the said Parchments, or Papers only; and the Persons whose names shall be so drawn shall be the Jury to try the Cause."

This very material alteration in trials by jury was occasioned by the following circumstance :—Hatch and Boyce, two noted smugglers, had for several years, before the above-mentioned Act was passed, carried on the smuggling trade (particularly in French and other foreign wines) to a degree that was never known before, between the Isle of Wight and the Hampshire coast. Boyce, originally a blacksmith by trade, built and lived at Apley House, near Ryde, and Hatch resided at Berry on the opposite coast, about half a mile from Stokes Bay. They had large and roomy cellars under the houses, in which they lodged the cargoes. The trade they carried on could not escape the notice of the Government, and proceedings were frequently instituted against them by the Crown, but notwithstanding that the most positive proofs were adduced, the Government could never secure a conviction. They not only had witnesses at hand, prepared to swear whatever they were bid,

but the jurymen, who were to try the case, being well known, were tampered with, and even the Under-Sheriffs were suspected of being influenced by corrupt means, to summon men who were in the pay of the defendants to try the cause, etc. Lord Northington sifted the matter, and secured the passing of the Act which put a stop to the iniquitous proceedings. Both defendants were ultimately convicted and made prisoners in the Fleet.

At the time of his conviction Boyce was said to have had forty thousand pounds invested as the proceeds resulting from this contraband trade.

Though the illegal traffic was maintained with the opposite coast of France, the Dutch were also especially active in sharing in the trade.

The *modus operandi* has often been described. Each village had a chosen leader, who took a foremost part in the preliminary negotiations, and was trusted and valued for the skill, energy, judgment, and presence of mind he had evinced in the past. The names of many of the earlier leaders, though at the time household words, have now become traditionary, and those belonging to a later generation will soon also become legendary.

The business was conducted on co-operative principles, each shareholder subscribing a sum of money varying in amount, for investment in spirits, tea, tobacco, etc., and towards the outgoing expenses, incidental to the run and subsequent landing of the cargo. Two classes of boats were used, the one most in request being a lightly built rowing boat, for four or six oars, painted white, having a broad beam affording ample stowage room for the return cargo. These galleys would stow away 40 to 50 four gallon tubs of spirits, and in fine weather, manned by a crew of four to six stalwart men, with one or two others commissioned to purchase the cargo, could be rowed across the channel in a few hours. The second class were small sailing vessels, ranging in size from forty tons, with a stowage capacity of from one hundred to two hundred and fifty tubs, down to smaller deck vessels of ten tons. These generally hailed from Bembridge, St. Helen's, or Ryde.

The money having been handed in, the boats would depart during the night. The greatest caution was necessary to avoid being overhauled or run down by the numerous craft always on the look out to intercept them, either going or returning. The price paid for the raw spirit at Cherbourg was an established one, fourteen shillings being paid for each keg of spirits; the charge for freightage across was three shillings, and the other incidental expenses of landing, shore hands, etc., came to an equal amount. The four gallon cask of proof spirit would thus cost a pound. After being diluted with an equal quantity of water, and colouring matters—consisting of burnt sugar—having been added, the sale price of the cask would be fifty shillings, and retailed to the public at half a crown a bottle, would command a ready sale, realising a hundred per cent. profit.

The return journey, "running the cargo" as it was called, was more risky and dangerous than the departure from the island, seeing

that the vessel's absence would be reported to the coastguard on shore. Hence every precaution would have to be taken to dispose of the freight in case of surprise or emergency. For this purpose a stout warp was passed round the outside of the vessel, to which the tubs were fastened by their slings. Each line had small pieces of cork attached to serve as buoys, and stone sinkers were added, so that by cutting the spun yarn by which the warp was slung to the vessel's side the whole would be hidden away out of sight. The point on the coast where the landing would be made had been previously decided upon. Here a good look-out would be kept, while shore hands would hold themselves in readiness to carry off the cargo. It was known that the coastguard were accustomed to meet at certain points on their beat, and then to pass onwards. These centres would be watched, and when the men had passed each other the critical moment was at hand. The other conditions being favourable, a prearranged signal was given, generally by the flashing of a light from a suitable point on the shore well hidden from the view of the coastguard. The vessel, or boat, would then run in as close to the shore as possible, and the tubs, previously fastened to a rope, were cut adrift, the end of the warp having the tubs attached being brought ashore in a small boat. A gang of men would be in readiness to lay hold of the warp the instant the boat touched the ground, speedily hauling in the rope and unfastening the tubs as they came to hand. Each keg was fastened to the rope by slings, composed of strong cord, a foot and a half in length; two of these cords were tied together, and the tubs slung over the shoulders of the shore hands were promptly carried away to be hidden, or taken up over the cliffs to some inland rendezvous. When a favoured landing place was not available other possibly more dangerous places were resorted to. Luccombe, with its perpendicular cliffs, was often negotiated. Hassall states that in his day "the principal use of the Chine was for smuggled goods, many hundred casks of which were sometimes secreted in the cavities and there securely concealed."

There were many other suitable places in different parts of the Undercliff, offering facilities for stowing away the cargoes. The cottages at Luccombe belonged to the squatters, and were occupied by farm labourers and fishermen. Underground cellars sufficiently large to hide away a consignment of "tubs" had been made by excavating and removing the soft sandstone under the front room floor. Three brothers named Kingswell lived here, and were well known as keen smugglers, being constantly engaged in the traffic carried on from this point of the coast. Charlie Kingswell, the best known of the brothers, was a hardy, picturesque old salt, who died recently at a very advanced age. On one occasion his cottage was unexpectedly visited by the excise officers, to whom probably some information had been given, but only on arrival to find Kingswell's wife apparently suffering from spasms and groaning loudly as she rolled in her chair from side to side. In order to relieve the pain "Old Hannah" had been forced to drink some raw brandy, and this seemed to account for the suspicious odour which pervaded

the dwelling. So at least the officer seemed to conclude, for after searching the cottage he reluctantly retired, without having noticed the trap door, under Hannah's chair, leading to the underground cellar. These cottages have since disappeared in the coast land-slips which have been so prevalent during the past few years.

At Bonchurch also the local fishermen supplemented their scanty earnings with occasional smuggling ventures. A large natural cave in the cliffs, known as "Old Jack," served as one of the receptacles, in which five hundred gallons of smuggled spirits and other illicit goods are known to have been stowed away at one time.

The origin of the numerous ghost and other like stories, so rife in the village, may be traced to the nefarious operations carried on by the gang of smugglers, for the mysterious noises, etc., often heard during the night were intentionally added to with the object of frightening away the more curious sight-seers. At certain seasons the lower road was thought to be haunted by a "Phantom" as it was called, on horseback. This apparition created a great scare, and for the time was a terror to the neighbourhood.

It was a clever device of the smugglers, who made use of the horse for a two-fold purpose, to carry away the tubs of spirits up the little coombe at the rear of St. Boniface House, and to frighten away the timid villagers. To deaden the noise, and at the same time to frighten the uninitiated, the hoofs of the horse were padded, and the application of a little phosphorus to man and beast produced a very startling effect, serving the purpose the men had in view most effectually. An outsider's view of the matter is given in the following narrative:—A man was hurriedly sent on horseback in the middle of the night, by the ladies living at East Dene, to bring the doctor, Mr. Bloxam, out from Newport. The case was an urgent one, and Page, a reliable man, set off, his mind fully preoccupied with the anxieties of the journey, and was hurrying along, when, to his dismay and horror, the ghostly apparition of the man on the white horse appeared, blocking the way through the valley. The natural impulse of the man was to turn round and beat a retreat, but recalling the urgent necessity of his errand, he made an effort and pulled himself together, feeling he must get through somehow. Making a savage cut at the strange horse with his heavy whip, he was as much astonished as relieved to find the beast divide in half, disappear in the air, and thus vanish from sight! Another story current during the early forties related to the "Ghost Coach." The coach could be distinctly heard travelling slowly along through the village by the lower road, halting for a moment at one of the cottages opposite the pond, then passing onwards, the sounds gradually grew fainter and fainter, and at last ceased altogether. No vehicle of any kind is ever reported to have been seen. It is supposed that the spacious cellars existing under the basement of the old manor house were utilised to stow away contraband goods, a purpose for which the cellars were eminently suited, and more especially so if, as tradition asserts, an underground passage existed, having an entrance from the shore below.

In *The Story of my Life,* by Augustus J. C. Hare, there is an interesting local allusion, and as it relates to St. Boniface House it is here given *in extenso.*

"February 4, 1866.—I spent yesterday evening with the Henry Feildens. Mrs. Feilden told me that in her girlhood her family went to the Isle of Wight and rented St. Boniface House, between Bonchurch and Ventnor. She slept in a room on the first floor with her sister Ghita: the French governess and her sister Cha slept in the next room, the English governess above. If they talked in bed they were always punished by the English governess, who could not bear them; so they never spoke except in a whisper. One night, when they were in bed, with the curtains closely drawn, the door was suddenly burst open with a bang, and something rushed into the room and began to whisk about in it, making a great draught and disturbance. They were not frightened, but very angry, thinking someone was playing them a trick. But immediately the curtains were drawn aside and whisked up over their heads, and one by one all the bed-clothes were dragged away from them, though when they stretched out their hands they could feel nothing. First the counterpane went, then the blankets, then the sheet, then the pillows, and lastly the lower sheet was drawn away from *under* them. When it came to this she (Ellinor Hornby) exclaimed, 'I can bear this no longer,' and she and her sister both jumped out of bed at the foot, which was the side nearest the door. As they jumped out, they felt the mattress graze against their legs, as it also was dragged off the bed. Ghita Hornby rushed into the next room to call the French governess, while Ellinor screamed for assistance, holding the door of their room tightly on the outside, fully believing that somebody would be found in the room. The English governess and the servants, roused by the noise, now rushed downstairs, and the door was opened. The room was perfectly still, and there was no one there. It was all tidied. The curtains were carefully rolled, and tied up above the head of the bed: the sheet and counterpane were neatly folded up in squares and laid in three corners of the room: the mattress was reared against the wall under the window: the blanket was in the fireplace. Both the governesses protested that the girls must have done it themselves in their sleep, but nothing would induce them to return to the room, and they were surprised the next morning, when they expected a scolding from their mother, to find that she quietly assented to the room being shut up. Many years after Mrs. Hornby met the lady to whom the property belonged, and after questioning her about what happened to her family, the lady told her that the same thing had often happened to others."

The property which belonged to Mrs. James White was sold fifty years ago, and there does not appear to have been any repetition of these unaccountable occurrences since. These, and many other stories of a like nature, then current, are becoming more and more legendary as time slips along.

The fishermen also at St. Lawrence took an active part in the contraband traffic, having a brace of leaders in "Captains" Harvey and Hingston. The former resided at "The Duck," a little wayside public-house (see pp. 177-8). This inn was the resort of all the "ne'er do wells" in the district, and did a brisk trade in all kinds of smuggled goods. Harvey was a big powerful fellow, standing over six feet in height, and figured as the central object in many of the stories narrated of adventures which happened at this period. One of the last seizures of contraband goods was made at St. Lawrence. The steward belonging to a nobleman's yacht, making the most of his opportunities, invested in a large assortment of fancy goods, silks, tobacco, and spirits,

and these he concealed in the hold of the yacht. The stores were being stealthily removed and stored in underground cellars near the house, when suspicions were aroused, and the father of Kerrenhappuc Newnham, of happy memory, was taken into custody by the excisemen in the act of transferring the goods from the vessel to the shore, and a year's imprisonment followed upon his conviction.

Binnel Bay, near Old Park, in the adjoining parish, was a well-known rendezvous of the local freebooters. A secret underground passage existed at this point of the coast, running up from the shore and opening above amongst the bushy growth in the tangled wilderness at the foot of the upper cliffs. The proceeds of "a run" could thus be removed from view in a very short space of time.

Whitwell and Niton were two noted centres, sharing in the notoriety that the exploits of an individual widely known as the "Great Smuggler" conferred on the locality. Ralph Stone was the local hero of the time, and his fame was due to the numberless exciting adventures in which he was the central figure. The tact, energy, and judgment Stone displayed on all occasions enabled him to carry through his plans with few mishaps, and thus made him a commanding figure in the local history. Dressed as a gentleman farmer of those days, in a loose velveteen shooting coat and waistcoat, a white hat, fancy trousers, and Wellington boots, his quiet manner and easy conversation disarmed suspicion, and in no way suggested the desperate risks he was constantly running.

Despite his wonderful seamanship, his vessel was seized several times, and Stone had to pass several periods of imprisonment as "a debtor to the Crown" in Winchester Gaol. Dying in the fullness of years, he left his heirs a considerable property which had accrued from the illicit trade he had carried on. His father, and many of his relations before him, had all been similarly engaged in open defiance of the local preventive service.

The smaller fry captured on these occasions were usually sent to gaol for a year's incarceration. Five years' service on board a man-of-war was the sentence imposed upon offenders belonging to the class of able-bodied seamen.

After the immediate excitement of the run was over, and matters had quieted down, the goods had still to be delivered to the several parties owning them. This always proved a very risky proceeding, and the local annals teem with the mishaps that befell the men of that day. Mr. Long describes one phase, illustrative of this stage, in the dialect of the locality, as follows:—"Aye, they ded use to do a lot o' smugglen about here fifty or sixty years agoo, when I was a bwoy. I've heerd my father zay, one time dree or vower on 'em, wi' tubs and bags of tay, got ver' near took to by the Custom House officers, but they managed to git off the shore and into the churchyard at Niton; but zome o' the officers had slipped round another road, and prid near penned 'em in all zides. They thought 'twas a gooser wi' 'em, but one on 'em,

a terbul voreright feller, called Mussel, zays: 'Come on, mayets, I be darned if I won't be upzides wi' they fellers, zoo they prised up the stooan on one o' they gurt high brick tombs there es there, and got inside, tubs and all, and bid quiet. Cooase the officers lost 'em, and couldn't think where the deuce they was gone to, and aater searchen about a bit, they went away. Zoon aaterwards, jest as 'twas gitten daylight, my father was gwyne droo the churchyard to goo to work, when all at once he zees the stooan top o' one o' the tombs begin to move. He stopped short, and stared wi' all the eyes he'd got, when up goos the stooan higher, and a man's faace peeps out at one corner and zays: 'I zay, mayet, can ye tell me what time 'tes?' I've heerd my father zay hes hear lifted hes hat clane off hes head; a couldn't move, but stood there staren like a stuck pig; but when Mussell axed 'en what time 'twas, he roared out, and run back prid near frightened to death. He run into the vust house a come to, and zays to the people: 'Whatever will become on us! The dead vokes in the churchyard be gitten out o' their graaves!' He was regular terrified, and it gid 'en sich a turn he couldn't goo to work that day. Zometime aaterwards he vound out the rights o't, and he and Mussel and t'others had many a laugh about it."[1]

A discussion with the elders of the several villages abutting on the coast will elicit numbers of like stories, relating more especially to the Niton and Chale churches. The precincts of the sacred edifices were not held inviolate; "any port in a storm" was the adage, and certain tombs are still pointed out as having been frequently used as a depository for stores of illicit goods.

A lucrative trade in bygone days was also carried on with homeward bound ships going up the Channel, by purchasing from the skipper and his crew tea—then selling from seven to nine shillings a pound—tobacco, gloves, silk, etc., duty free, and retailing them afterwards, at much higher prices, to the housewives, living further inland.

The inevitable result of this illicit trade in cheap raw material followed. Habitual drunkenness and the consequent misery was very rife amongst the resident population of the Undercliff. To be sober and temperate was the marked exception to the rule. The facilities for imbibing were many; unlicensed houses, known as shebeen or pop shops, were numerous, selling home brewed ale, at fourpence a quart, or glasses of grog at threepence. Other spirits could be obtained at an equally cheap rate.

In the Niton village records allusions are made to the "White Lion," the "Cat and Rabbit," the "Buddle," the "Star," and the "Blue Lion." These formed quite a respectable list of inns for so small a place, all of them prepared to minister to the bibulous propensities of their idle, dissolute customers, and mighty topers some of them were. The spirit of the age may be traced in a story, connected with the Bonchurch villagers. Some sixty years ago the pond overflowed its banks,

[1] W. H. Long, *Dialect of the I. of W.*, p. 87.

and as the water showed no signs of subsiding a council of wise men was called to consider how the difficulty could be most readily surmounted. The conference, however, did not see any feasible way of solving the problem. In the dilemma the chairman appealed to one of the bystanders—a rough and ready customer, named Dyer—saying, "Well, Bill, can you help us to get rid of this water?" He at once replied "Oh, yes, we chaps ull get rid of it for ye; throw in a couple o' hogsheads o' brandy, and us'ull drink up the lot for 'e."

At length, with an improved and more efficient coastguard service, the smuggling business became too hazardous, whilst at the same time the reduction in the excise duties levied made even successful ventures so much less remunerative that the contraband trade largely diminished. A raid at Niton in the late fifties was of so inquisitorial a character, and proved so disastrous to the fair fame of many of the inhabitants, that it gave the *coup de grâce* to further smuggling ventures on a large scale. It was evident, from the places searched, that a local informer had given sundry precise hints. A tub or two, found here and there, kept over for private consumption from the last run, involved so many in the fines and penalties that were inflicted, and produced so great an effect, that the illicit business died out, and the various stories alone linger to remind us of the past history of this nefarious traffic.

Chapter XIII.

THE METEOROLOGICAL ASPECTS OF THE UNDERCLIFF.

"The Isle of Wight as it is separated by the sea seems a little world by itself. The air is very healthy and wholesome insomuch that the inhabitants are generally long lived."[1]

More than sixty years have elapsed since Sir James Clark drew attention to the value of the Undercliff as a health resort.[2] It was at his suggestion that the late Dr. Martin began his exhaustive meteorological investigations, and, at his death, in 1866, the observations were continued with the same scrupulous attention to accuracy and thoroughness. At the end of December, 1899, the returns for a period of sixty years were completed, and sufficient data had accumulated to determine the peculiar claims and eligibility of the Undercliff of the Isle of Wight as a health resort. It is only by a dispassionate consideration of the facts resulting from such a series of observations, systematically taken, that a just estimate can be formed as to the special advantages the Undercliff offers from a health point of view. It must be borne in mind that no such thing as a perfect climate is to be met with on the face of the earth; there must be wind, rain, sunshine, clouds, and variation of weather everywhere.

CLIMATE, &c.

The general term climate, taken in its present sense, signifies those various influences which affect the different conditions of the atmosphere, such as heat, moisture, geological structure, etc., but the great bases upon which climate is formed are, as might naturally be supposed, latitude and local elevation.

The importance of climatology is generally becoming recognised. The vagueness which surrounds the whole subject, and the suspicion that the available information is often attainable only from interested persons, has much to do with the neglect in the past. In the present instance the averages given have been calculated from records taken under identical conditions, and secure a certain uniformity and accuracy in the returns. Where comparisons are made the observations are taken from returns made in conformity with the regulations of the Royal Meteorological Society, whose officials analyse and tabulate the facts recorded by the observers.

[1] Camden's *Brittania*, 1730.
[2] Clark, *The Sanative Influence of Climate*, publ. 1846.

The great influence of the sea in moderating the extremes of climate is unmistakable, increasing the temperature of the sea coast stations in winter, and diminishing it in summer, but even more decidedly do the agencies of prevailing winds and prevailing currents show their effects. Where the prevailing winds are westerly the cold of winter is mitigated, and this is more especially noticeable in the climate of islands, as compared with the adjacent mainland. If a station is sheltered from cold winds by a range of hills, etc., while at the same time it is open to warm winds and has a southern aspect, the principal conditions of a winter health resort are present. The character of the soil also is a most important factor in the salubrity of a locality. If the soil is light and porous so as to allow of the rapid removal from the surface of the rain water which falls upon it, the climate is far drier than can ever be the case on clay soils. Again, the climate varies greatly with the elevation, a position on a slight eminence, or on the side of a hill, secures the residents from severe frosts, the cold air gradually sinks down to the lower level.

Having thus briefly stated several conditions affecting the climate of a district, before proceeding farther it will be well to take a general view of the Undercliff, its position, surface configuration, the nature of the soil, etc., and so be enabled to understand how far the locality complies with the foregoing conditions, and to realise the exceptional position the district offers as a health resort for invalids.

(*a.*) The Undercliff occupies the extreme southernmost part of the Isle of Wight, and is distant twenty miles from the mainland, reaching far out into the English Channel, seventy per cent. of the compass points being in the direction of considerable areas of ocean.

(*b.*) The district is protected from the northerly and north-easterly winds by the high range of downs, rising to 783 feet above sea level at the highest point.

(*c.*) The general exposure is almost due south, overlooking a magnificent expanse of sea, open to all warm southerly and westerly winds.

(*d.*) The soil is of a light, porous character, and this, with the inclination of the land, gradually shelving as it does from a height of about three hundred feet down to the shore, favours the rapid removal of the surface water which falls on it.

(*e.*) The situation on the hillside is favourable to the protection from the extreme cold.

Thus, all the conditions mentioned by Mr. Scott[1] are present, *viz.*, the moderating influence of the sea over extremes of temperature, the protection from cold winds, a southern exposure, a dry soil, with other minor advantages that will readily occur to those acquainted with the locality, *e.g.*, the amount of sunshine, etc., which will be subsequently referred to.

[1] Robt. H. Scott, *Elementary Meteorology*, 1887.

THE TEMPERATURE.

Of all the various conditions of the atmosphere, which conjoined, form what is usually understood by climate, the foremost place has hitherto always been assigned to temperature as the most important. The contrast between different localities as to the extent and variation which they experience in the yearly period is a factor of the greatest importance in the determination of their climate. Before proceeding, however, with the consideration of the temperature, it will not be amiss to consider briefly the various sources from whence heat is derived, and to show that the Undercliff possesses, in an eminent degree, many of those advantages which give it a superiority in winter, as well as to favourably affect the temperature of the summer season.

The great source from whence temperature is derived is of course the direct influence of the luminous solar rays, yet no inconsiderable portion owes its origin to the "dark heat" which arises from terrestrial radiation. Mr. Scott says: "As soon as the heat from the sun has reached the earth, its warming effects begin to be available, for it has changed its character and has become 'dark heat,' that is, heat coming from a comparatively low temperature. Such heat is absorbed by the atmosphere with much greater facility than heat coming from the sun."

(*a.*) The *General Exposure* of the Undercliff being from S. by E. to S.S.E., gives the most favourable aspect for receiving, during the winter, the whole amount of the sun's rays from its rising to its setting; indeed, during this season the sun may be said to be continually on the Undercliff during the day. That the district does receive a large amount of bright sunshine is strikingly shown in the tables recording the sunshine at various stations, published by the Royal Meteorological Society, and gives a character to the brightness for which the locality is noted.

(*b.*) The *Protection afforded by* the downs against the pernicious effects of various winds has been mentioned. The remarkable wall of rock by which the Undercliff is defended, and that forms so striking a feature, is fully described elsewhere, so that further allusion to this advantage is unnecessary.

(*c.*) The *heat absorbed* during the summer months by a soil such as the Undercliff possesses is considerable, and the radiation which takes place during the winter months contributes not a little in elevating its winter temperature.

(*d.*) The *Inclination* of the land has the effect of allowing the sun's rays to fall at a less oblique angle during the winter than they would upon a plane surface, and consequently favours the receipt of a greater amount of direct heat. Owing to the configuration of the surface the morning air is soon warmed, and by an early hour the invalid can be out and pass the larger portion of the day in the open air.

(*e.*) The last source from whence the district derives additional warmth in winter is the *proximity of the wide expanse of the British Channel.* The immediate neighbourhood of this mass of water, by its action on the various winds, tends to soften, by its influence, the rigours of winter, and to moderate the heat of the summer season.

MEAN TEMPERATURE.

In every day there is a certain range of temperature and consequently a maximum and minimum point. By adding together the maxima, and the minima, then dividing the total by the number of the days of the month, the mean maximum and minimum thus obtained added together and divided by two, gives the mean temperature of the month. The daily ranges of temperature being added together and divided also by the days of the month, give the mean daily range. In the influence of climate on the health, mean maximum and mean minimum temperature and the range between them, are agents vastly more important than mere mean temperature. The mean annual temperature gives but a poor idea of the true thermometric character of a locality, or the real difference in the climate, for two places, having the same annual allowance of heat, may have it distributed over the months in widely differing proportions. Thus, for example, New York has a mean annual temperature corresponding to that of Ventnor, yet the two climates are very dissimilar, the summer in one being very hot and the winter very severe, whilst at Ventnor, the summer and early autumn are cool and uniform; and the winter and spring extremely mild.

The following table gives the Mean Annual Temperature of the Undercliff for a period of seventy years, arranged in the several decades from 1840 to 1909.

TABLE I.

Years	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Means
1840—1849	50·55	50·49	52·01	52·15	51·75	51·01	54·03	52·25	52·29	52·26	51·87
1850—1859	51·46	51·99	53·04	50·23	51·78	49·33	51·38	53·54	51·90	53·03	51·76
1860—1869	49·38	51·71	51·07	52·50	51·70	52·62	52·67	51·41	52·96	51·34	51·67
1870—1879	49·96	50·75	52·25	51·06	51·20	50·87	52·03	48·06	51·41	48·64	50·62
1880—1889	51·53	50·45	52·05	51·37	52·55	49·51	51·34	49·88	49·45	50·80	50·87
1890—1899	50·20	50·40	50·00	53·50	51·50	50·72	50·88	51·39	52·67	52·74	51·40
1900—1909	51·98	51·03	50·64	51·40	51·20	51·06	51·36	51·00	51·60	49·50	51·07

Showing the Mean Annual Temperature of the Undercliff is 51·32.

The returns for the first series of forty years are from observations taken at Belgrave House, Ventnor; the last series of thirty years from 1880 to 1909, are from the Royal Meteorological station, at St. Lawrence. The Ventnor returns, for the same period, are identically the same.

A remarkable agreement occurs in comparing the mean annual temperature of the atmosphere for seventy years with the observations of Dr. William Arnold Bromfield on the temperature of Springs of water at Bonchurch and St. Lawrence, and of the deep well at Carisbrooke Castle, which ordinarily contains about 10 feet of water, and from its depth (145 feet), central position, and great uniformity of temperature, may be regarded as giving the mean heat of the earth, for the island generally, with a near approach to accuracy.

TABLE II.

Places	Highest temp.	Lowest temp.	Extreme range	Means
Carisbrooke (*a*) ..	52·25	50·50	1·75	51·37
Bonchurch (*b*) ..	52·50	50·75	1·75	51·62
St. Lawrence (*c*) ..	52·75	51·00	1·75	51·87

(*a*) Carisbrooke.—No. of observations 24, from Sept., 1842, to February, 1846.

(*b*) Bonchurch, do. 15, from Jan., 1843, to February, 1846, taken from a spring near the church, an excellent and copious source, flowing briskly through a cylindrical basin about two and a half feet deep.

(*c*) St. Lawrence observations, 18 in number, taken from a spring gushing from a bank opposite the Earl of Yarborough's marine villa.

The variations of mean annual temperature through a long series of years are very small, for if heat unduly preponderates in the average of one month, it is often compensated for by abnormal cold in another.

The extreme difference between the highest and the lowest mean annual temperatures for the several decades, is shown in the accompanying table.

TABLE III.

1840 to 1849	1850 to 1859	1860 to 1869	1870 to 1879	1880 to 1889	1890 to 1899	1900 to 1909
3·54	4·21	3·58	4·19	2·50	3·50	2·48

The equability of each decade is affected by a markedly hot, or, an unusually cold year. If the range for each year be viewed singly the range is but a limited one. The accompanying table gives the range for the decade, 1890-1899.

TABLE IV.

1889 to 1890	1890 to 1891	1891 to 1892	1892 to 1893	1893 to 1894	1894 to 1895	1895 to 1896	1896 to 1897	1897 to 1898	1898 to 1899
·77	·20	·40	3·50	2·00	·78	·16	·51	1·28	·07

In the seventy years the range between the coldest year, 1877,—48.06° and the warmest, 1846,—54.03°, is found to be little more than 5.97°; an amount, which to most readers, is doubtless unexpectedly small.

In a paper entitled—*English Climatology,* by F. Campbell Bayard, out of a list of 52 stations with a yearly mean temperature between 50.6° and 51.6°, recording their observations for the ten years 1881—1890 to the Royal Meteorological Society, *the highest are the stations of Ilfracombe, Falmouth, Ventnor, and Guernsey.*[1]

[1] *Quarterly Journal Royal Met. Soc.*, vol. xviii, October, 1892.

MEAN TEMPERATURE OF THE SEASONS.

The following table is deduced from observations for the same periods of time, and is arranged in the various decades, from 1840 to 1899 inclusive, the winter season comprising the months of December, January, and February, and the spring season those of March, April, and May.

TABLE V.

Mean Temperature during Winter, Spring, Summer, and Autumn, from 1840 *to* 1899.

Season	1840–49	1850–59	1860–69	1870–79	1880–89	1890–99
Winter ..	42·06	42·98	43·06	41·91	41·68	41·56
Spring ..	49·99	48·58	49·36	48·40	47·99	49·05
Summer ..	61·37	61·79	60·89	61·07	60·65	60·94
Autumn ..	54·09	53·76	53·59	53·00	52·85	53·16

TABLE VI.

The Mean Temperature of the several Seasons for sixty years, 1840—1899.

Winter	Spring	Summer	Autumn
42·21	48·89	61·12	53·41

The difference between winter and spring is 6.68°, that between spring and summer 12.23°, between summer and autumn 7.71°, and between the autumn and winter 11.20°.

The extreme range between the coldest and warmest seasons is seen to be 18.91°.

TABLE VII.

Winters with little or no Frost, 1840—1899.

Years	Mean temp.	Years	Mean temp.
1845–6	45·86	1865–6	45·35
1848–9	45·32	1868–9	47·16
1850–1	45·41	1876–7	46·38
1862–3	45·09	1898–9	45·45

The winter of 1868-9 was the warmest—47.16° in the long series; the coldest—36.90°, being in the year 1840-1. Taking the several months, the warmest of the December months was in 1852—temperature, 50.38°; the coldest, 1890—temperature, 35.10°; the warmest January, 1851—temperature, 46.74°; the coldest, 1881—temperature, 34.31°; the warmest February in the series was in 1868—temperature, 47.53°; and the coldest in 1895, the temperature recorded being 32.60°.

In 1862-3 and 1868-9 the minimum thermometer did not fall below 33 degrees.

The accompanying table, comparing the temperature of the winter months at several well known health resorts, is taken from Mr. Campbell Bayard's paper previously referred to :—

TABLE VIII.

Place	Falmouth	Ilfracombe	Ventnor	Brighton	Weymouth	Southbourne near Bournemouth
Mean temp.	49·70	49·70	49·30	48·60	48·60	47·90

In a paper "On the Comparative Climatology of the chief English Health Resorts," giving the average winter temperature at thirty-three stations for the years 1882-8 inclusive, Ventnor is placed third in the list of warmest stations in England:—Falmouth, Ilfracombe, Ventnor.[1]

MEAN TEMPERATURE OF THE MONTHS.

It will be seen by Table IX that January is the coldest month in the year, and August the warmest in the long series. The extreme range of mean monthly temperature, from the warmest to the coldest month, is 21.07. It is also important to notice that the temperature of July and August continues, with but slight change, into September and October, the summer and autumn differing little, and the latter season extending into the months which, on the mainland, are often cold and trying. *The comparative warmth of the autumn and early winter are thus noticeable points in the climate of the Undercliff.*

TABLE IX.

Giving the Mean Temperature of the Months, from 1880 *to* 1909 (*Royal Met. Soc.*).

Years	Months											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1880—1889	40·31	40·87	43·30	47·64	53·82	58·83	61·27	62·25	59·19	51·85	47·98	43·38
1890—1899	40·84	40·90	44·22	48·72	53·53	59·26	61·73	62·45	59·96	53·29	47·88	42·94
1900—1909	42·47	41·18	43·47	47·65	52·89	57·39	62·07	62·11	59·06	54·13	47·57	43·86
Means ..	41·20	41·32	43·66	48·00	53·41	58·49	61·69	62·27	59·40	53·09	47·81	43·39

The Belgrave House returns for the forty years 1840 to 1879 are as follows:—

TABLE X.

Years	Months											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1840—1849	41·65	41·49	44·80	49·87	55·31	60·08	61·41	62·61	60·06	53·70	48·54	42·93
1850—1859	42·53	42·04	44·22	48·86	52·68	59·93	62·73	63·33	60·12	54·25	46·91	44·23
1860—1869	41·72	43·27	43·61	45·00	54·67	58·74	62·11	60·70	59·47	54·55	46·35	44·11
1870—1879	42·15	42·01	44·18	48·79	52·24	58·87	62·00	62·77	59·05	53·61	46·33	41·37
Means ..	42·01	42·20	44·20	48·13	53·72	61·90	62·06	62·35	59·67	55·53	47·03	43·16

[1] Bertram Thornton, *The Lancet*, September, 1890.

The warmest and the coldest month, with the mean temperature during the period of seventy years, is shown in the following table :—

TABLE XI.

Months	Warmest		Months	Coldest	
	Year	Mean temp.		Year	Mean temp.
January ..	1851	46·74	January ..	1881	34·31
February ..	1869	47·53	February ..	1895	32·60
March	1880	49·27	March	1845	39·38
April	1865	54·36	April	1888	44·44
May	1848	59·98	May	1879	49·75
June	1846	66·99	June	1860	55·18
July	1859	67·49	July	1888	58·27
August	1899	66·95	August	1860	58·69
September ..	1865	65·35	September ..	1860	55·38
October.. ..	1861	58·07	October.. ..	1905	48·60
November ..	1877	54·91	November ..	1878	41·51
December ..	1852	50·38	December ..	1890	35·10

EXTREMES OF TEMPERATURE.

There is probably no other section in Meteorology with the single exception of that devoted to the rainfall, which excites more interest than the one which treats of the extreme ranges of temperature.

In the influence of climate on the health, mean maximum and mean minimum temperature and the range between them are agents, vastly more important than mere mean temperature. Two places may have the same annual allowance of heat, yet have it distributed over the months in widely differing proportions, the summer in one being very hot and the winter very severe, whilst in the other the opposite conditions prevail. New York has a mean annual temperature corresponding to that of Ventnor, yet the two climates are very dissimilar. The average temperature of New York, in July, is 74°, and of January about 30°, giving a range of about 44°. At Ventnor these values respectively are 61.60° and 41.60°, *the range only 20°*, and are evidences, as far as temperature is concerned, *of a vastly superior meteorological condition.*

To those unacquainted with the study of climate it may appear almost absurd to discuss such small variations as one or two degrees, but in reality these differences are considerable, and the effects of even the small variations of temperature on invalids are important. At inland stations the range on single days is often very great, amounting to 40°, 45°, or even 50°, whilst at Ventnor, *a range of 20 degrees is rarely recorded, and it is to this limited range between the extremes of temperature during the year that the strongest and most favourable evidence will be given of the general equability of the Undercliff, and thus of its suitability for many classes of invalids.* Dr. More Madden, referring to these points, says :—

" that the mean temperature of a Health Resort is of much less importance for invalids, than the rapidity and frequency of the transitions between its

highest and lowest temperature, and preference should be given, *ceteris paribus*, to that place which possesses the most equable, rather than the warmest winter climate." [1]

Mr. Symons, in a discussion on Climatology, says that :—

"He had endeavoured to ascertain the mildest places during the winter months, chiefly as indicated by the mean minimum temperatures, and had found the stations ranged themselves in the following order :—Guernsey, Ilfracombe, Falmouth, Ventnor, etc. *The smallness of the amount of daily range of temperature* was an important factor in the determination of the climatic conditions of any place, and giving weight to this consideration, as well as the average degree of cold experienced, the following order was obtained :—*Ilfracombe, Falmouth, Ventnor.*" [2]

The *highest* temperature recorded at the Royal Meteorological Society's station, St. Lawrence, Ventnor, during the past twenty years was on August 11th, 1884, when the maximum thermometer registered 83.2°, as contrasted with that registered at Greenwich on the same date, of 94.2°. Other data relating to high temperatures will be found in the article devoted to summer season temperatures.

The *extreme lowest* minima recorded during the period, 1880-1889, occurred during the excessively cold season of January, 1881, when, on the 22nd of that month, 15.89° was registered at Belgrave House, Ventnor; 15°, Royal Met. Soc. station, St. Lawrence; and 15.5° at the Rectory, St. Lawrence; as against 12.7°, Greenwich; 11.2°, Bournemouth; 0°, Cardington; and 2°, Cambridge.

The winter of 1878-9, so marked by the severity of its frost both in England and on the Continent, was an unusually fine one at Ventnor. The mean temperature was low, but the weather was bright and fine, and the sky for the most part cloudless with bright sun. In a paper by Dr. Compton, of Bournemouth, entitled "Memoranda of the lowest temperatures experienced in Bournemouth and forty-five other English stations during the great cold of December, 1878," the writer says :—

"The winter of 1878-79 will be memorable for its great length and the continuity of its cold, and December, 1878, was in this respect the coldest of the past century. Some idea of the cold may be gathered from the fact that at Greenwich in the past 107 years, there were only three Decembers colder by one degree. The mean minimum temperature registered on the eleven coldest days was highest at Ventnor, 27.2°; Bournemouth, 25.6°; Torquay, 25.4°; whilst 16.8° was reached at Hull, and 12° at Carlisle. The actual lowest temperature observed during these eleven days was 23.7° at Ventnor, 22.3° at Bournemouth, 20.6° at Torquay, against 5.1° at Oxford, and 5° at Carlisle. *Ventnor has reason to be proud of her place as the warmest out of nearly fifty English stations.*"

As might naturally be expected, the extreme range of temperature varies least in the winter months and gradually increases up to May, when it gradually declines up to August. In the following two months the extreme variations show an increase, and it then gradually decreases until the cycle is complete. The absolute maximum readings of the thermometer during the winter months, it might naturally be supposed,

[1] *Health Resorts of Europe and Africa*, p. 3.
[2] *Quarterly Jour.*, vol. xviii, p. 232 (Royal Met. Soc.).

would follow the law of the mean daily maximum temperatures, and would therefore be considerably higher on the coasts than in the central parts of the kingdom, but such is not the case. Comparing the typical inland station of Cardington with Ventnor, the greatest antagonism is in June, and the least in November, giving an instance of the reluctance with which summer abandons the Undercliff to the inclemency of winter. In absolute minimum temperature it will be seen that in every month of the year the sea coast has an immense gain over the mainland, and Mr. Aldridge adds :—" Proofs of the mildness of our south-western climates crowd one upon the other to a degree which becomes almost monotonous. The sea exercises at all seasons an elevating influence upon low night temperatures, and Ventnor owes its high minimum temperature to the air being warmed in its passage over the sea—an exhaustless store of heat."

The following observations on the temperature of the sea round the coasts of England and Wales and the English Channel are taken from the monthly weather reports of the Meteorological Office :—

September.—" The temperature of the sea water colder round the coasts, but the water was generally warmer than the air on shore in some places by 3 or 4 degrees."

October.—" A general decrease by as much as 4° to 6° in some places. Nearly everywhere the water was warmer than the air on shore by some 3° to 5°."

November.—" A decided increase in the temperature, the fall since October amounting to 8° or 9° in some localities. Notwithstanding this, the water was warmer than the air on shore, by 7° or 8°, in many neighbourhoods."

December.—" The temperature again lower, but the water everywhere warmer than the air on shore, by 5° to 7°."

January.—" A general decline in the temperature of the sea round the coasts, but still higher than that of the air by several degrees."

February.—" The sea water along our shores was warmer than the air on shore to the extent of several degrees."

March.—" A little lower than in February, but still on the south coast generally a little warmer than the air."

April.—" A general increase in the temperature of the sea water, the greatest being along the coast of Sussex and Kent."

May.—" Everywhere higher by as much as 5° to 6° in some places."

The greatest density of sea water occurs with a temperature of little above 27°. So long, therefore, as the underlying water is warmer than that on the surface, the latter being the heavier of the two, will continue to sink until the temperature of the whole mass of the sea has been reduced to that of the greatest density, or till the freezing point of 32° is reached. This process is necessarily a very slow one. After a hot summer, therefore, the heat given out by a deep mass of salt water must be very great, and especially observable in autumn and early winter. On the other hand, when the temperature of the whole sea has been materially lowered, the result is seen by the low maximum readings in spring. Hence lilacs and other of the flowering shrubs near London are much more forward than those near the coast.

The following table, taken from a paper by Dr. Tripe, "*On the Winter Climate of some English seaside resorts,*"[1] gives the sea temperature at the entrance of the English Channel in the month of November, 1873-4-5-6 :—

TABLE XII.

Year	1873	1874	1875	1876	Means
Thermometer ..	52·9	54·3	52·6	54·4	53·5
Sea Temperature ..	54·1	55·6	55·4	56·2	55·3

The superiority in times of severe frost of towns similarly situated to Torquay or Ventnor is obvious, both these places being exposed to the sea on their S.W. and N.E. sides. In addition, the protection afforded by hills on the north of a town having a southern outlook—Ventnor and Brighton, for instance—is unfavourable to atmospheric disturbance with northerly winds.

The increase of temperature with the altitude in times of extreme cold demands some notice. Mr. Buchan says :—

"This increase invariably takes place in dry, calm, clear weather during the night, and in winter when the temperature of the air is lowered by contact with the chill surface of the earth. But the rate at which the temperature increases with the height is modified to a very great extent by the physical configuration of the surface. As the air in contact with the declivities of hills and rising grounds becomes cooled by contact with the cooled surface of the ground, it acquires greater density and weight, and consequently slips down the slopes and accumulates in the low lying ground at the base. Hence places situated on rising ground are never exposed to the full intensity of frosts, they are protected by their elevation, which provides, as it were, an escape for the cold, almost as fast as it is produced."[2]

Ventnor, protected by hills on the north and situated on the southern slope, down which the cold air of night escapes to the Channel, has an ideal position. Dr. Tripe, whom I have already quoted, says :—

"The climate of a given locality depends naturally on its aspect, that is to say, on the extent to which it is exposed to or sheltered from certain winds. Thus the Undercliff, Isle of Wight, *enjoys a singularly pleasant winter climate* in consequence of the protection afforded by the cliffs, which shelter it from the land winds, so that the only winds which reach it are tempered by the extent of sea over which they pass before reaching the land."

TABLE XIII.

Giving *the highest maximum temperatures* recorded during the thirty years, 1880—1909, at the St. Lawrence Station, Royal Met. Soc.

Year	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1880—1889	77·0	81·6	77·2	77·1	83·0	82·8	81·3	80·4	77·3	79·6
1890—1899	73·5	77·8	76·0	82·5	74·0	77·8	78·2	81·4	78·3	79·8
1900—1909	80·3	79·0	80·2	78·6	79·3	75·2	77·8	76·8	83·0	82·4

[1] *Quarterly Jour.*, April, 1878 (R. Met. Soc.).

[2] *Handbook of Meteorology.*

TABLE XIV.

Giving *the lowest minimum temperatures* recorded during the same period.

Year	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1880—1889	25·0	14·9	29·3	25·1	29·5	25·8	26·0	25·0	21·5	24·3
1890—1899	21·2	20·0	23·8	20·7	15·5	20·4	27·7	23·8	29·5	24·5
1900—1909	27·8	25·0	25·6	27·0	27·6	29·4	27·2	21·6	20·1	25·0

The following table, giving a comparison of the Mean Monthly Range at several stations for the ten years, 1880 to 1889, is derived from *The Meteorological Record*:—

TABLE XV.

Place	Months											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Ventnor ..	25·01	25·10	28·02	27·99	31·70	30·18	28·34	27·31	27·93	26·92	26·69	24·90
Torquay ..	28·07	27·37	31·49	30·33	33·24	32·84	31·14	31·53	29·63	30·22	27·20	27·53
Bournemouth	27·78	27·66	31·75	33 82	36·64	32·75	32·88	32·21	32·03	32·16	29·60	28·63
Eastbourne ..	27·93	26·46	30 85	32·78	37·74	35·12	33·19	33·03	32·14	32·56	28·64	27·82
Cardington ..	34·36	32·42	39·15	43·30	48·83	46·10	44·07	43·86	42·04	37·01	35·86	33·72

MEAN DAILY RANGE OF TEMPERATURE.

The mean daily range forms a no inconsiderable item in estimating the value of any particular climate. It would be quite possible for two stations to have, as I have already pointed out, nearly the same average amount of heat in a month or year, yet the one may be distinguished by the approximation, so to speak, of its night temperature to that of the day, or *vice versa*—the other for the wide difference existing between them, greater warmth prevailing by day and correspondingly greater cold by night. Thus Ventnor has a mean July temperature little inferior to that of the typical inland station of Cardington, in Bedfordshire, but the warmest period of the day, taking an average series of years, is 7° cooler at Ventnor than at the latter place, the coldest period of the night being 5.3° warmer. The mean daily range, therefore, is 12.3° less at Ventnor than at Cardington.

In many parts of the mainland many days of spring, summer, and autumn are warm, but the nights following them are extremely chilly and even frosty. Now as small variations between night and day, and between summer and winter, are considered to be evidences of a healthier climate (other things being equal) than one in which large ranges prevail, the superiority of Ventnor in this respect must be manifest, or, to put this in another way—" The closer the climate of a locality approximates that of the sea, the less will be the daily range of temperature, and that in the direct ratio of that approximation will be its suitability for the invalid."

The accompanying table shows the Mean Daily Range for the several months for seventy years, 1840-1909:—

TABLE XVI.

Years	Months											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1840—1849[1] ..	7·46	8·20	10·42	12·84	12·82	11·90	10·62	11·39	11·09	9·53	7·78	6·96
1850—1859[1] ..	6·99	8·20	10·19	10·99	11·05	10·38	9·96	9·79	9·68	8·39	7·73	7·15
1860—1869[1] ..	6·93	7·66	9·10	10·71	10·08	9·93	9·89	9·03	8·79	7·82	8·05	6·67
1870—1879[1] ..	5·97	6·70	9·15	10·10	10·70	10·78	10·41	9·97	9·70	8·37	8·12	7·50
1880—1889[2] ..	7·80	8·90	11·10	12·50	12·70	13·30	13·20	12·30	10·80	10·50	8·10	8·60
1890—1899[2] ..	8·01	8·86	11·01	12·41	13·77	12·74	12·21	11·94	11·32	9·54	8·41	7·66
1900—1909[2] ..	8·00	8·60	10·00	11·70	12·60	11·80	12·10	11·20	10·50	9·10	8·30	7·70

The small variations of the night minimum temperatures in the first months of the year is worthy of notice, differing gradually less and less from that of the day, and there is hardly any chill in the night air at any time of the year. It is evident that the superiority of the coast to inland stations is gained chiefly at night. The high minimum temperature is perhaps proved almost as much by the state of its vegetation, as by any theometrical evidence that can be brought to bear on the subject.

If we proceed to compare the difference in the mean diurnal range with that of other places, for a similar series of years, we shall have a striking example of the greater equability of temperature which the Undercliff presents.

TABLE XVII.

Comparison showing the Mean Daily Range for the several quarters for the ten years, 1880—1889.[1]

Place	March	June	Sept.	Dec.
Ventnor.. ..	9·28	13·01	12·15	9·14
Torquay ..	9·96	13.55	13·78	10·12
Bournemouth ..	10·34	14·56	14·36	10·77
Eastbourne ..	10·14	15·93	15·15	10·45
Cardington ..	13·35	21·11	17·74	12·60

THE SUCCESSIVE DAILY RANGE.

When we consider the comparatively small variation of daily temperature exhibited in the Undercliff, we shall be quite prepared to find how little is the amount of range for each succeeding day. Taking the mean for a series of ten years, we find it amounts to only 2.19.

TABLE XVIII.[3]

Months											
Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2·04	2·35	2·20	2·25	1·90	2·04	1·97	2·10	2·20	2·28	2·26	2·22

[1] *Belgrave House Observ.* [2] *St. Lawrence Station, Royal Met. Soc. Jour.*
[3] *The Meteorological Record.*

The following meteorological means, for the year 1890, are taken from *The Meteorological Record* :—

TABLE XIX.

Mean Temperature for the several quarters, at Ventnor and other Health Resorts.

Place	Quarters			
	March	June	Sept.	Dec.
Ventnor	43·4	51·3	59·0	44·6
Torquay	43·4	51·5	58·2	44·6
Llandudno	43·1	51·1	58·0	43·7
Bournemouth	42·5	53·0	59·8	42·1
Eastbourne	42·1	51·2	59·1	42·2
Scarborough	40·8	49·9	57·9	41·8
Greenwich	41·4	52·8	59·4	40·8

TABLE XX.

Mean Monthly Temperature at Ventnor and other Health Resorts.

Place	Months											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Ventnor ..	45·5	40·5	44·3	46·9	54·5	56·7	59·0	60·5	60·8	53·1	46·0	35·1
Torquay ..	45·5	40·7	44·2	47·1	53·4	58·0	58·9	59·2	59·1	52·2	45·4	36·0
Llandudno ..	45·5	39·2	44·2	45·9	53·4	56·5	58·1	57·9	59·6	52·1	46·2	35·0
Bournemouth	44·3	39·3	44·0	46·6	54·5	57·9	59·3	60·2	59·5	50·9	43·8	31·5
Eastbourne ..	44·5	39·0	43·3	46·4	54·1	56·8	59·5	60·3	60·0	50·6	44·6	32·2
Scarborough	41·2	38·4	43·0	43·2	56·2	56·3	57·6	57·4	58·9	49·0	42·2	34·4
Greenwich ..	43·1	37·7	43·2	46·7	55·6	58·6	59·5	59·3	59·5	49·3	43·2	29·8

TABLE XXI.

Mean Monthly Range of Temperature at Ventnor and other Health Resorts.

Place	Months											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Ventnor ..	25·4	23·5	34·5	23·7	33·3	27·4	21·8	26·5	25·5	33·9	37·5	23·3
Torquay ..	28·9	23·9	37·0	26·6	30·2	30·7	30·6	28·6	31·7	30·1	37·5	24·4
Llandudno ..	24·3	20·1	31·6	32·8	30·7	25·7	24·2	29·4	27·2	29·5	31·1	31·7
Bournemouth	28·6	23·4	41·5	30·9	37·5	34·2	31·4	32·6	35·8	37·2	40·8	28·1
Eastbourne ..	23·8	23·3	36·3	26·0	32·9	29·3	25·6	33·1	36·2	38·1	42·0	23·8
Scarborough	31·9	19·1	33·9	29·4	34·1	30·1	31·9	33·6	33·2	32·8	29·2	22·3
Greenwich ..	28·5	23·9	55·7	32·3	38·6	43·6	36·2	43·7	40·6	43·9	39·9	29·7

TABLE XXII.

Mean Daily Range of Temperature at Ventnor and other Health Resorts.

Place	Months											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Ventnor ..	8·9	6·8	9·2	11·3	12·0	11·7	11·8	12·0	10·8	11·1	9·5	6·3
Torquay ..	9·1	7·8	12·5	12·1	12·0	14·7	12·7	14·2	13·6	14·2	11·8	7·6
Llandudno ..	9·9	8·2	9·3	11·0	12·9	10·9	10·3	10·2	10·4	9·3	9·9	8·1
Bournemouth	9·7	9·8	13·8	13·7	14·9	14·0	14·1	14·9	15·3	14·9	12·1	8·7
Eastbourne ..	8·5	7·8	10·9	11·2	13·6	10·4	11·8	12·5	13·8	14·7	10·8	7·8
Scarborough	9·2	6·0	10·4	10·5	11·3	13·5	12·9	12·0	11·9	10·2	9·8	5·8
Greenwich ..	10·3	10·1	15·7	17·2	21·9	19·6	18·8	19·5	20·8	15·7	12·1	8·1

HYGROMETRIC PHENOMENA.

The atmosphere on the coast is usually supposed to be more humid than the atmosphere inland, from the greater amount of vapour abstracted from the sea, but it does not necessarily follow that every marine climate is a damp one. With an absorbent soil and good drainage the amount of humidity is comparatively small.

In the table of Mean Relative Humidity, recorded at 26 stations, given by Dr. Thornton, in the paper from which I have already quoted, excluding the three metropolitan stations, Ventnor follows Llandudno with 78°. Torquay and Ventnor, 80°, are bracketed the second highest in the list—(100 represents complete saturation of the air).

The following table gives the Mean Relative Humidity for ten years—1881 to 1890—taken from Bayard's paper on "English Climatology."[1] The returns for the second series, 1891 to 1900, are taken from the Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society :—

TABLE XXIII.

Mean Relative Humidity, 9 a.m.	Months												Yearly Mean
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
1st Ser., 1881—1890	88·0	86·0	81·0	79·0	77·0	78·0	79·0	76·0	80·0	80·0	85·0	86·0	81·25
2nd „ 1891—1900	88·3	84·2	81·6	78·4	74·5	77·7	75·1	77·6	76·6	80·0	84·0	85·2	80·25

FALL OF RAIN.

The fall of rain in a district constitutes a very important feature in the history of its climate. It is natural to suppose that the neighbourhood of the sea, or the vicinity of a large expanse of fresh water, would, as a general rule, favour the descent of a larger quantity of rain. But various circumstances modify this effect; the high downs with which its rocky barrier to the north is capped attract the clouds in their neighbourhood, and, meeting with a cooler stratum of the atmosphere, favour the deposition of their contents, which are precipitated chiefly on their leeward and not on their windward flanks. The high downs above referred to are to the leeward side of Ventnor.

As a general rule a humid condition of the atmosphere does not depend on the amount of rain which falls, but on the nature of the soil, which, in the Undercliff, is for the most part of chalk with the upper green sandstone, and intermingled at various points with the gault. The ground is everywhere pierced by fissures, or, as they are locally called, "vents," the whole mass is much disrupted and broken up, and allows of the rapid removal of the rain which falls upon it. The result is that the surface soon dries after rain.

[1] *Quarterly Journ.*, Oct., 1892, vol. xviii, pp. 213—231 (R. Met. Soc.).

The observations as to the rainfall for the Undercliff have been carefully recorded for the long period of seventy years from 1840 to 1909. The pluviometer at Belgrave House is placed three feet from the surface of the ground, at a height of 150 feet above sea level at spring tides.

For the ten years—1840 to 1849—the mean annual rainfall was 25.722 inches. The decade is remarkable as having the smallest rainfall in any year over which the record extends—in 1842 the amount was only 18.97 inches, and also for having the only month in the series in which no rain fell.

The next table—for the years 1850 to 1859—shows a mean rainfall of 28.446 inches. The year 1852, in this series, was marked by the unprecedented quantity of rain, amounting to 42.05 inches, the largest rainfall in the sixty years.

The following decade—1860 to 1869—gives a mean of 29.261 inches. On two days in the same month—October 15th, in both instances—in 1862 and 1865, rain fell with almost tropical violence, the amount being 2.25 and 2.49 inches respectively.

The mean fall of rain for the decade—1870 to 1879—was 31.104 inches. The rainfall during the years 1875-6-7-8-9 was greatly in excess of the total recorded in previous years.

The next table shows that the mean fall of rain recorded at Belgrave House for 1880 to 1889 was 31.162 inches. The largest rainfall in any month during the long series was in October, 1889, when 9.21 inches fell in twenty-three days.

The mean rainfall for the ten years, 1890 to 1899, amounted to 28.79 inches.

The annual rainfall registered at the Royal Meteorological Society's station, St. Lawrence, the gauge being placed 80 feet above sea level, shows a mean fall, for 1880 to 1889, of 29.24 inches; for 1890 to 1899, of 27.76 inches; and for 1900 to 1909, of 28.84 inches. The influence of the high downs explains the slightly increased rainfall of 1.92 and 1.11 inches, noticed in the Belgrave House returns.

MEAN FALL OF RAIN FOR THE SEASONS.

The rainfall during winter and spring is smaller than that during summer and autumn. The following arrangement in the several decades will show how variable the amount is.

TABLE XXIV.

Giving the Mean Rainfall during the Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter months, for sixty years, 1840—1899.[1]

Season	1840—49	1850—59	1860—69	1870—79	1880—89	1890—99
Winter	6·75	5·89	7·02	8·87	8·22	7·22
Spring	4·72	5·81	6·21	5·01	5·44	5·04
Summer	5·39	6·54	5·61	7·24	6·25	6·57
Autumn	8·94	10·65	9·50	10·10	11·32	10·03

[1] Belgrave House Observations.

The wettest and driest season, with the year and the amount of the rainfall and the number of days on which .01 of an inch fell during seventy years, 1840-1909 is shown in the annexed table :—

TABLE XXV.

Season	Wettest			Driest		
	Year	Amount of Rainfall in inches	No. of days on which ·01 inch fell	Year	Amount of Rainfall in inches	No. of days on which ·01 inch fell
Winter	1879	16·56	66	1899	3·42	24
Spring	1862	9·07	44	1893	1·22	11
Summer	1879	13·13	61	1899	2·10	18
Autumn	1852	20·62	61	1897	4·53	31

TABLE XXVI.

Mean Rainfall during the several seasons for sixty years, 1840—99.

Winter	Spring	Summer	Autumn
7·33	5·37	6·25	10·09

The character for frequency of rain which the southern coasts possess, when compared with the interior, disappears entirely in wet springs and summers. The equal distribution of the summer rainfall, between the coast and the interior, is mainly due to the fact that during the season in question the clouds rise high, and do not come in contact with the hills as in the winter, thus a large proportion of the impregnated vapour finds an unobstructed path into the heart of the country.

TABLE XXVII.

Showing the Mean Monthly Rainfall for thirty years, 1880—1909.[1]

Years	Months											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1880—89 ..	2·30	2·17	1·74	1·59	1·71	1·62	2·38	1·59	2·94	4·23	3·75	3·19
1890—99 ..	2·46	1·75	1·88	1·64	1·48	1·85	2·31	1·94	2·73	3·88	3·25	2·75
1900—09 ..	2·41	2·06	2·38	2·07	1·88	2·18	1·57	2·41	2·45	4·04	2·55	2·79

The Undercliff has seven months of dry weather—from February to August, during which 45 per cent. of the total rainfall takes place, leaving 55 per cent. as the allotment for the remainder of the year. April is the driest month, closely followed by June and May. The wettest month is October, having attained this position five times out of the six decades.

The largest rainfall in any month during the sixty years was in October, 1889, when 9.21 inches fell in twenty-three days, but this amount is quite exceptional.

[1] *Royal Met. Soc. Jour.*

The wettest and the driest month, with the year, the amount of the rainfall, and the number of days on which .01 inch of rain fell, between the years 1840-1899, is given in the following table :—

TABLE XXVIII.

Month	Wettest			Driest		
	Year	Amount in Inches	No. of Days	Year	Amount in Inches	No. of Days
January	1877	6·83	26	1855	·32	9
February	1848	4·97	23	1891	·01	1
March	1897	4·41	19	1840	·03	3
April	1879	3·88	14	1840	—	—
May	1843	4·63	21	1895	·23	5
June	1860	4·77	21	1870	·23	2
July	1888	5·50	21	1898	·19	5
August	1878	6·04	21	1899	·18	9
September	1896	7·84	24	1865	·14	3
October	1889	9·21	23	1897	·52	8
November	1877	8·99	25	1871	·47	4
December	1876	7·67	21	1844	·27	7

RAIN AND RAINY DAYS.

What constitutes a rainy day is a question that has often been asked. Formerly a "rainy day" was understood to be one on which any rain, however small the quantity, had fallen. The present procedure is to reject from the list of wet days those on which the one hundredth—.01 of an inch had not been registered. It would obviously be absurd to call that a wet day which produces only one thousandth of an inch of rain, a mere shower that does not even wet the pavement. Even with this proviso it must be understood that many days are called wet by the meteorologist, which are not so in the more popular meaning of the term. Often rain falls during the night only, or there is a shower of five or ten minutes' duration, leaving the rest of the day fine, and rendered more agreeable for the pedestrian from the absence of dust. It may also be pointed out that the amount of rain which descends in a season is not of so much moment as the way in which it usually falls, sharp, heavy showers being much more favourable for the invalid than one where it drizzles for days together.

The total number of "wet days" in the year is 157, taking the average for the sixty years.

The following table, drawn up by Mr. Aldridge, gives the mean monthly rainfall for a period of twenty-one years—1852 to 1872, showing an annual fall of 28.92 inches on 150.6 days :—

TABLE XXIX.

Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Mean Rainfall ..	2·93	1·59	2·05	1·64	2·02	1·97	1·96	1·98	3·12	4·17	2·83	2·66	28·92
No. of rainy days	16·0	11·9	11·8	10·5	12·0	10·4	10·0	10·9	13·4	16·4	12·8	14·5	150·6

The annexed table is taken from the carefully recorded observations of Dr. Martin, giving the diurnal and nocturnal fall of rain for the seasons 1839 to 1865. The nocturnal fall is comprised within the hours of nine p.m. and nine a.m. the following day :—

TABLE XXX.

Annual Fall		Seasons							
		Winter		Spring		Summer		Autumn	
Days	Nights	Days	Nights	Days	Nights	Days	Nights	Days	Nights
84·5	67·5	22·1	17·0	20·9	14·3	18·4	15·7	23·1	20·5

TABLE XXXI.

Giving the number of days and nights as to rainfall for the years 1861—1865, *inclusive, taken from the middle series of years, also stating the number of days on which* ·05 *of an inch, or less, was recorded.*

Years	Days	Nights	Total	No. of days on which ·05 or less fell
1861	89	64	153	55
1862	91	62	153	48
1863	81	53	134	50
1864	82	58	140	51
1865	94	62	156	48

PREVAILING WINDS.

The chapter treating of the prevailing winds has a very important bearing in the selection of a health resort for invalids, since the character and direction of these have a very material influence on their general well-being.

Before proceeding with a practical analysis of the observations as to the force and direction of the winds, it will be well to again briefly recapitulate the position and relation of Ventnor and the Undercliff. Standing out into the sea, twenty miles from the mainland, protected landwards by the high range of downs which screen it from the cold northerly, north-easterly, and north-westerly winds during the winter, the district has a wider expanse of sea on all sides than is possessed by any other resort on the south coast. All winds to reach Ventnor must pass over a great or less extent of water, fully seventy per cent. of the compass points being in the direction of considerable areas of ocean. It must be remembered that from whatever points of the compass the winds blow, their character, as sea winds, is in direct proportion to the amount of sea area over which they travel. The more the winds are in contact with the sea the more do they participate in its climate, one of the chief features of which is its small range of diurnal, seasonal, and annual temperatures.

The coldest winds are necessarily those which reach the Undercliff after having passed over the longest tracts of northern land, but, in sweeping over the twenty miles of water, the cold Polar wind traverses from the entrance to Chichester Harbour ere it reaches the protective boundary of the downs, these characteristics are modified and their force broken. "As regards the wind, therefore, the chief point to be especially noted is the amount of shelter afforded by high land, as at Ventnor, and especially of protection against the stormy and cold winds which ordinarily prevail at the end of February and in March."[1] These cool and dry northern airs are frequent at night, and give a more bracing character to the district in summer, which might otherwise be wanting.

Westerly and south-westerly winds predominate over the easterly and north-easterly winds at all seasons of the year, in varying proportions. The only winds to which the Undercliff is directly exposed are seen to be those of the less frequent occurrence, and those which blow from warm quarters predominate chiefly at the colder seasons of the year. The prevailing westerly winds give a warmth and softness to the air, minimising the diurnal range of temperature, and giving equability to the several seasons. In summer especially the beneficial influence of the sea continues, the prevailing westerly winds blowing over the cooler area of the sea, and the high range of downs sheltering the district from the hot land winds.

Taking the careful records of the prevailing winds for the period of forty years, from 1840 to 1879, it will be seen that the northerly and easterly winds, as compared with southerly and westerly winds, are 5,934 to 8,584.

TABLE XXXII.

Prevailing Winds from 1840 *to* 1879.

	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.
1840 to 1849	272	505	617	178	259	898	589	336
1850 to 1859	352	290	656	220	321	506	885	433
1860 to 1869	235	209	698	209	239	613	1022	349
1870 to 1879	296	423	520	254	152	568	825	589
	1155	1427	2491	861	971	2585	3321	1707

N.	1155	S.	971
N.E.	1427	S.W.	2585
E.	2491	W.	3321
S.E.	861	N.W.	1707
	5934		8584

Taking a later period of twenty years—1880 to 1899—at the Royal Metrological Society's station at St. Lawrence, similar conditions are recorded.

[1] Dr. Tripe "On the Winter Climate of some English Seaside Resorts," *Quart. Jour. R. Met. Soc.*, April, 1878, p. 127.

The north-easterly and easterly winds were 3,101, as compared with westerly and south-westerly winds 3,805. To show more clearly the relative proportions of the prevailing winds for the seasons, I have taken a shorter period of five years, from the middle of the forty years series, 1861 to 1865, with the average number of days on which the wind blew from each quarter.

TABLE XXXIII.

Season	N.	N.E.	E.	S.E.	Easterly	S.	S.W.	W.	N.W.	Westerly
Winter	64	29	76	26	195	51	80	96	36	263
Spring	29	31	123	30	213	31	69	112	34	246
Summer	10	7	76	22	115	36	114	155	42	347
Autumn	38	29	108	15	190	33	90	96	46	265
Total—5 years ..	141	96	383	93	713	151	353	459	158	1121

The westerly and south-westerly winds lose little of their essential characteristics before the temperature is reduced. The chief feature of the winter months is the prevalence up to the end of February of warm winds from the south to the west points, and in the summer months the hot winds are the north and east winds, and these are shut off by the range of downland.

SUNSHINE, &c.

The question of sunshine is important to visitor and resident, and those persons who have chosen the Undercliff for its bright sunniness will not be surprised to find in the published tables of bright sunshine of the Royal Meteorological Society that the Undercliff occupies a foremost place. This position naturally follows, since the general exposure gives the most favourable aspect for receiving the whole of the sun's rays during the winter and spring months.

It must be borne in mind that the following tables contain only the record of "bright sunshine," and do not include days that might otherwise come under the head of bright and sunny days—haze, mist, or the passing of a light cloud, arresting the power of the recording instrument.

Some allowance must be made as to the total yearly quantity, since this is affected in consequence of the district falling into shade, between six and seven o'clock in the evening during the summer months, thus depriving the instrument of a considerable amount of sunshine which would otherwise be recorded in fine weather.

There is also the same loss from the sun rising in the morning behind the high ground of Dunnose. These facts account for the apparent discrepancy during the summer months as compared with that recorded at Kew.

TABLE XXXIV.

Giving the bright Sunshine recorded at St. Lawrence, Ventnor, from 1880 *to* 1909.

Years	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1880—1889	—	1605	1709	1694	1561	1704	1683	1902	1448	1495
1890—1899	1604	1678		not re	corded		1583	1716	1726	2004
1900—1909	1794	1880·7	1576·2	1620·7	1711·2	1698·3	1915·3	1736	1932·7	1988·6

If a comparison be instituted with other health resorts it will be found that Ventnor holds a very foremost place. The recorder used is the "Campbell-Stokes." The values given by the "Jordan Photographic Recorder" are somewhat higher than the values tabulated above. They are taken at Bonchurch, where the station is 300 feet above sea level, and are given to show the difference in the values recorded by the two instruments.

TABLE XXXV.

Place	Months												Tota Hours Sun
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
Bonchurch[1]	308·04	532·67	765·74	947·11	1262·55	1454·86	1550·81	1240·95	945·66	667·00	423·77	329·42	10428
Ventnor[2] ..	261·75	500·30	604·68	819·50	1120·65	1130·80	1359·20	1080·05	867·30	610·70	359·75	250·00	8964

The difference in the five years amounts to 1463.9 hours.

SUMMER TEMPERATURES.

In marked contrast with the comparative warmth of the winter months is the coolness of the summer season, and this is mainly due to the same causes, *viz.*, protection from the hot land winds and the free exposure to the cooler sea breezes.

Situated miles from the mainland, the coast from Bonchurch on the east trending rapidly to the north, while it does the same from Blackgang on the west, leaving the truncated extremity of the island, of which the Undercliff consists, fairly out in the Channel. The western extremity is about two miles more to the south than the eastern, which has the effect of giving the tract an aspect of south-and-by-east to S.S.E. It has, therefore, during the hottest months, the full influence of the sea breezes, which are always more or less present, and these tend to moderate the influence of the sun's rays. In fine summer weather the atmosphere, being heated by the sun, gradually rises as the day advances, and the cooler current flowing in to supply its place causes the sea breeze, which at such periods usually sets in during May, June, and July about 11 a.m.

All winds, as previously stated, to reach Ventnor must pass over a greater or less expanse of water. During the summer the prevailing

[1] Jordan Photo. Rec. [2] Campbell-Stokes Rec.

winds are those coming over the cooler area. Taking an average of five years, the relative proportion is, westerly 347, as against the warmer easterly 151, during the three months of June, July, and August. Dr. Keith Johnstone observes :—" The temperature of a country bordering upon the sea is lowered in summer by the presence of the more slowly warming sea near it."

From its position Ventnor has also the advantage of being more or less in shade during a portion of the summer's day, the sun's rays failing to reach it during the early morn, in consequence of the high land at Dunnose, while soon after six p.m. it again falls into shade as the sun declines behind the range of high cliffs which extends along its northern boundary.

I have referred to these points at some length because of the very common, but somewhat vulgar error, that has deterred, and still continues to deter, many from visiting the back of the Island during the summer season. I wish to dwell on the fact, for it is not only an injustice to the district, but also to those who may desire to visit it. I will content myself with quoting the opinions of two gentlemen who were not in any way connected with the locality. One of the earliest, culled from a long series, is that of Mr. Miall, who writes :—" Ventnor being a well-known winter retreat for invalids suffering from chest affections, is popularly set down as intolerably hot during the summer months; except in a few localities we were not aware of any inconvenience being inflicted by the heat. For ourselves we suffered none whatever, no feverishness, no melting down of bodily substance and strength, no longing to sit, as Sydney Smith expressed it, in our naked bones. The balminess of the air was exquisitely luxurious by night as well as by day." Professor Ewald, October, 1898, writing in a German paper, the *Berlin Clinical,* says :—

" Having to go as we believed, according to the universally accepted opinion, into the enervating summer heat of the south. We were, however, agreeably undeceived. The bad report we had heard of the beautiful Island proved itself a wicked, unfounded calumny. Certainly during the ten days which, favoured by magnificent weather, we spent in Ventnor, it was warm, but not at all unpleasantly hot or relaxing. The regular, gently blowing breezes from the south and south-west effectually moderate the temperature, and charge the air with refreshing humidity. They bring the coolness of the ocean over, which these winds have been blowing to the southern coast of the Island. They are really the cool winds in contrast to the northerly winds which (at this summer season of the year) carry with them the heat from the mainland. In fact, the so-called ' Undercliff,' but more especially Ventnor, is quite unsurpassed for the purity and mildness of the atmosphere."

I will now proceed to give some examples to illustrate what I have advanced as to the coolness of the district, taken from one of Mr. Glaisher's reports, appended to the Registrar-General's Quarterly Returns :—

" Nothing, however, in the records of the 11th of August is more remarkable than the difference between the maximum temperature of Osborne on the northern, and Ventnor on the southern shores of the Isle of Wight. On the banks of the Solent, and only two or three miles from the mainland, the ther-

mometer rose 91.5°, while at Ventnor, which stands far out in the channel, and has the full benefit of the sea breeze, the maximum was only 83.2°.

Mr. Aldridge, referring to the summer temperature of July, 1881, says :—

"The difference between the maximum at Newport in the centre of the Island and that of St. Lawrence on the south side, is remarkable, amounting to 12.4°. This fact will serve to illustrate very clearly the cooling effect of the sea when close at hand."

The Registrar-General's Quarterly Returns refer to two "very hot" periods, one in August, the other in September, 1898, twenty-nine days in all. The highest temperature at Ventnor, in 1898, was 78.5°; at Osborne, situated about a dozen miles north of Ventnor, it was 89°; and at Greenwich Observatory 92.1°. These facts speak for themselves, and if the summer visitor will take the hills quietly, he will fully realise how charmingly the cool sea breeze from the prevailing south-west quarter tempers the heat of the sun's rays, and renders locomotion, even in the warmest noonday hours, pleasant and enjoyable.

The details of the following tables of comparison between Ventnor and Greenwich for the two "very hot" periods, above referred to, are taken from the Registrar-General's Quarterly Returns, 1898 :—

TABLE XXXVI.

Place	August, 1898													Means
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
Ventnor	70·0	73·0	67·5	76·0	78·0	78·5	73·0	73·5	75·0	74·5	73·5	70·5	69·0	73·2
Greenwich	80·8	84·5	87·5	87·9	86·0	82·1	77·0	78·3	81·1	82·1	81·8	90·0	78·5	82·9

Place	September, 1898																Means
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Ventnor ..	70·0	71·5	74·5	74·0	72·0	77·2	77·8	71·0	70·4	70·8	70·4	66·8	70·4	72·4	72·0	75·0	72·3
Greenwich ..	76·0	82·9	82·5	79·0	80·1	84·8	92·1	89·8	77·2	79·0	71·3	70·6	80·1	82·0	83·9	82·9	81·3

Mr. Glaisher, in the Registrar-General's Quarterly Returns, Sept. 30th, 1899, says, "The weather in July was bright and fine, with a remarkably hot period extending from the 6th to the 22nd."

TABLE XXXVII.

Place	July, 1899																Means
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
Ventnor ..	72·8	75·8	73·8	71·2	69·8	73·0	66·0	67·0	66·4	69·0	71·0	76·0	72·0	73·8	76·2	75·2	74·8	72·0
Greenwich	77·0	80·1	78·8	79·5	75·0	83·1	82·3	75·1	75·1	74·0	76·7	79·1	82·0	88·1	86·0	88·5	81·8	80·1

"The weather in August was fine, bright and hot, with an exceptionally hot period extending from July 29th to August 27th, the highest temperature recorded at Ventnor was 78.8°, on July 30th, and on August 15th; as compared with 82.3°, and 90° at Greenwich, and 87.3° and 90.9° at Osborne."

The third week of July, 1900, was undoubtedly one of the hottest on record, though slightly higher maxima have been occasionally reported. On several days temperatures in London exceeded 90° in the shade. According to the Meteorological Office the highest maximum, 95°, was attained on Monday in that week. The highest maximum temperatures recorded at the Meteorological Station, St. Lawrence, were on the 16th, 77.8°; 19th, 76.8°; 22nd, 76°; 24th, 78.5°; 25th, 78°; 26th, 76.5°.

One of the old-fashioned summers appeared in August, 1884, and from the Kew Meteorological report for the week ended August 13th, I take the following extract: "Some exceptionally high temperatures have been chronicled. The maximum in the shade, on six days out of seven, having exceeded 80°. Monday, the 11th, was the hottest day, when the thermometer, with a northern aspect, read 89°, while in a secondary screen, in a more open position 91.5 was attained." The following readings are from recognised stations, where the temperature has been noted for some years.

TABLE XXXVIII.

Year 1884	Ventnor	Royal Nat. Hospital, St. Lawrence	St. Lawrence Rectory	Royal Observatory, Kew	Greenwich
Aug. 8th	78	79·9	77·9	87	88·5
„ 9th	78	82·3	80·6	85	87·0
„ 10th	78	78·2	76·1	81	83·1
„ 11th	78	83·2	80·1	89	94·2
„ 12th	70	71·0	68·9	81	84·0
„ 13th	70	71·2	71·3	76	81·9

To show the influence of the sea breeze, a thermometer fully exposed to the sun on the pier at Ventnor, 320 feet from the shore, did not exceed 86° on the 11th, while on the 13th, with a fresh breeze, it did not rise beyond 75°; the temperature of the sea varied from 65° to 66°, taken with a verified Casella thermometer constructed for the purpose.

Chapter XIV.

THE MEDICAL ASPECTS OF THE UNDERCLIFF.

In conclusion, the object of the present chapter is to briefly summarise from the previous sections dealing with the Meteorology, the several facts which may fairly be drawn from them and thus define, as far as possible :—

First—The character of the climate of the Undercliff and the advantages it offers as a Health Resort.

Secondly—The class of invalids for which the climate appears more especially suited and likely to derive benefits from a residence here.

Thirdly—To give briefly such medical statistics as the records of the Royal National Hospital for Chest Diseases, or other allied institutions will supply, supplementing these statistics by the conclusions which may fairly be deduced from the special opportunities medical practice in the locality affords.

THE CHARACTER OF THE CLIMATE.

(*a*) It must be evident that the atmosphere is essentially *a marine one—" the pure air of the open sea "*—and this to an extent, which excluding Guernsey, few other health-resorts possess. Standing well out in the English Channel, surrounded by broad tracts of ocean, and fully open to the prevailing warm westerly or south-westerly sea breezes, the atmosphere becomes charged with the alterative, tonic, and invigorating properties such a marine air possesses.

(*b*) For the same reasons the atmosphere is of *the purest nature.* Of all the conditions necessary for a healthy climate this is one of the most essential, purity of the air, *i.e.*, freedom from malarial or miasmatic emanations, or from atmospheric contaminations, produced by the crowding together of bodies of men, or evolved by manufacturing processes.

(*c*) Although a marine climate *it is in no sense of the word humid.* Every physical condition is adverse to its being so. The atmosphere is in constant motion, for the terraced formation opens up every part to the prevailing breeze; the gentle inclination of the land towards the sea aids the rapid disappearance of surface rain—whilst the porosity of the subsoil favours the rapid percolation of absorbed moisture, and is adverse to exhalations in the air. Dr. Scoresby Jackson points out that " the causes of atmospheric moisture exist chiefly in the soil."[1]

[1] *Medical Climatology*, p. 18.

For the invalid this is a great advantage, as it enables him to take exercise out of doors shortly after the rain has fallen. There are indeed few days during the winter on which a visitor, unless *very delicate,* will find himself confined indoors by damp or rain. It is a rare circumstance for the weather to be so continuously bad as totally to prevent outdoor exercise during some part of the day.

The atmosphere, on the other hand, is far removed from the dryness which would excite irritation; the softness so characteristic of the air, is due to the sea-breeze. The district may thus fairly claim the first qualification for a health resort—an undoubtedly dry soil.

(*d*) *Its brightness* is a striking feature, for statistics show that it is one of the sunniest spots in the British Isles. The effects of the invigorating influence of sunlight in disease are positively tonic, and a place which, from its position, enjoys the full effects of the solar light during the winter, possesses one of the foremost qualities necessary to a restorative climate.

(*e*) *Its beauty.* To the individual oppressed and worn down by sickness, the cheerful aspect of the place of his retreat is by no means unimportant. The number of evergreens which flourish here in the winter takes from the Undercliff, in a great measure, the dreary character of that season, while the highly romantic appearance, the extreme beauty and variety of the scenery, add not a little to soothe the mind made irritable or enervated by disease, and are admirably adapted to restore, mentally and physically, the overtaxed energies of the inhabitants of our great cities.

(*f*) *The mildness and equability of the climate* at all seasons of the year, especially in the autumn and early winter, is however the strongest feature, and the one which as a remedial agent claims the notice of the physician in the selection of a suitable seaside residence for the invalid. Proximity to the sea is almost a *sine qua non* in obtaining the atmospheric conditions requisite for a Health Resort, from the impossibility of obtaining the equalising and refreshing influences in any other way. It is however *in the limited range between the extremes of temperature during the year, and between night and day, in the small variations of the night minimum temperature in the first months of the year, and the consequent absence of chill in the night air,* that the strongest and most favourable evidence will be given of the general equability of the Undercliff and thus of its suitability for many classes of invalids. If the tables of mean monthly and mean daily ranges are compared with those of other well-known resorts, a striking example will be afforded of the equability of the temperature this district possesses. Dr. More Madden, in referring to these points, says :—

"The mean temperature of a health resort is of much less importance for invalids than the rapidity and frequency of the transitions between its highest and lowest points, and preference should be given *cæteris paribus,* to that place which possesses the most equable rather than the warmest winter climate." [1]

[1] *Health Resorts*, p. 3.

Apart from the mere meteorological returns, the equability of the climate is well illustrated by the character of the vegetation.

"There are, of course, the tamarisk, verbena, veronica, euonymas, etc., the fuchsia growing untended and forming beautiful hedgerows, the myrtle blooms freely, the magnolia presents its large wax-like flowers, while the laurel is laden with ripe berries. The fig and grape ripen freely out of doors, and the blue gum tree flourishes apace."[1]

(*g*) *The extent of ground with special facilities for outdoor exercise,* at elevations varying from 20 to 700 feet, form a special feature among the other advantages afforded by the Undercliff. Indeed, the entire district is eligible as an exercising ground. Walks by footpaths and roads extend for miles, close to the sea, and open to the healing influence of the sun's rays. The protection afforded by its rocky barriers from the cold northerly winds extend some six miles, and no place of winter resort that I am acquainted with affords a similar protected space. Sir James Clark writes :—

"The whole extent of the Undercliff is, indeed, singularly protected from winds; and I apprehend it will be difficult to find in any northern country a tract of equal extent and variety of surface, and I may add, of equal beauty in point of scenery, so completely screened from the cutting north-east winds of the spring on the one hand, and from the boisterous southerly gales of the autumn and winter on the other."[2]

It is a matter of surprise to many that the trees, generally speaking, do not exhibit that "set," or, lateral inclination, so noticeable on the south coast. The reason is, that although free ventilation exists, there is *no draught of air,* except at a few points, where breaks occur in the cliff forming the northern boundary. The luxuriant vegetation on the upper terraces prove the mildness and general quiescence of the air, though situated some three hundred feet above sea level.

(*h.*) Independent of the foregoing advantages, one other remains to be mentioned—*the variety of situation* which the Undercliff offers. For some constitutions a low and warm situation is desirable, whilst others require a more bracing site.

Dr. More Madden says :—

"Preference should always be given to those winter resorts which present the greatest inducements and opportunities for open air exercise; and no small part of the benefit derivable from removal to a southern health resort results from the opportunities afforded of being much in the open air. Invalids who require a somewhat dry, tonic, moderately warm and bracing atmosphere, will find such climates extremely limited in number in these islands, being chiefly confined to a narrow strip, etc., *e.g.,* the Undercliff, which undoubtedly possesses the best tonic winter climate in the British Islands."[3]

Dr. Theodore Williams writes :—

"All marine climates are more or less stimulating, and although this depends on the quantity of saline matter contained in the atmosphere, it is modified by the temperature and the amount of moisture present. Our home climates may thus be divided according to the hygrometric condition of the locality, Falmouth and Penzance, the type of those, with somewhat sedative

[1] *Sanitary Record.*

[2] Clark, *On Climate, &c.*, p. 134.

[3] *Health Resorts, &c.*, pp. 7-8.

properties prevailing; St. Leonard's and Worthing, of the other with more stimulating characteristics; whilst Ventnor would be properly classified in the intermediate class. *Somewhat sedative, yet not relaxing, stimulating, without being irritating.*"

Dr. Thorowgood places Ventnor in the intermediate class—

"*Being warm, and yet at the same time free from marked relaxing effects.*"

THE CLASS OF DISEASES FOR WHICH THE CLIMATE IS SUITABLE.

Among the many changes that have taken place from time to time in treatment, none is more marked in the present day than the substitution of a system of bracing and hardening by means of free open air exposure night and day, to the influence of the atmosphere, and one of the main objects of change of climate is to obtain greater facilities for the process.

It appears from the testimony of most authorities that the meteorological phenomena which interfere with the success of the system in England are, not the coldness of the climate, but the prevalence of fog, mist, and the humid state of the atmosphere. From the facts adduced in the preceding chapter it must be evident that the climate and the amenities of the Undercliff offer special facilities and encouragement to a large class of invalids.

In the early catarrhal stages of lung diseases, where the type is mainly one of debility, though the climate may not vie with the warmer and sunnier climates of more southern latitudes, yet almost all the climatic conditions essential or necessary for the curative treatment can be obtained in our own home health resorts. At Ventnor, a pure marine air, a fairly equable climate, and if not all the possible sunshine, yet few days throughout the winter pass without opportunities being afforded for the open air exercise so essential for maintaining digestive efficiency and promoting the better nutrition of the whole system; daily experience showing this, by actual clinical results, to be the best method for counteracting the tendency to tubercular catarrhal disease. A few months' residence will generally suffice in this early stage to restore to the constitution its usual tone and vigour, though constant care and avoidance of former habits will be found necessary to avoid a recurrence. As Dr. Flint very truly writes—

"If climate itself exerts no special agency in determining the arrest of the disease, yet it may favour the result by affording better opportunities for outdoor exercise and in furnishing objects of interest to the mind which may secure that object."

When the disease is more advanced, whether associated with pyrexia or not, and in all the more chronic forms, the Undercliff may be sought with the full expectation that improvement in the general nutrition will show itself, and nature aided in repairing the mischief the early stages may have caused. The invalid can pass a large part of the day in the open air. Fear of the inclemency of the weather is far too great.

Patients affected with diseases of a tubercular type ought to pass the greater part of the day in the open air, undeterred by a little rain, wind, or low temperature. It is a matter of every day observation in such cases as these, with the better opportunities afforded for outdoor pursuits, how the nutrition of the body improves, the physical powers are recuperated, and the invalids, especially from the large towns, evince marked improvement in the local signs of disease. Bronchitic affections, more especially those of a chronic type, attended with free expectoration, or complicated with emphysema, and cases of dilated bronchi usually derive signal benefit from a residence here during the winter months. The improvement is shown in some instances with surprising rapidity, the irritability of the mucous membrane subsides, and with diminished secretion the tendency to recurrent attacks is lessened.

After pleurisy, where the lung has been compressed by effusion, so long as any chest contraction, or want of full expansive power remains, a risk of the invasion of more serious disease is to be feared.

Persons of advanced age, suffering from recurrent attacks of bronchitis, and those long resident in tropical countries, will find the warmth and equability of the Undercliff climate very helpful.

Many cases of atonic dyspepsia associated with nervous irritability and sleeplessness improve by change to the south of the Isle of Wight. For this type of illness the terraces on the lower levels facing the esplanade would appear to offer the best situations, while in the more chronic forms the middle and upper levels will help to stimulate the torpid hepatic functions and lessen the sluggish state of the secretions generally.

Individuals of a gouty diathesis, who take up their abode for a season, will find the attacks less frequent and of a milder character. This remark applies equally to rheumatic affections, though the good derived depends much on the particular character of the season.

There is no class of cases for whom we may more confidently look for the beneficial effects of change of climate during the winter months than in children with a relaxed and anæmic state of system subject to recurrent catarrhal affections, the fresh catarrhs tending to run a milder course. It is more especially in those forms of constitutional disease which come under the category of strumous affections that the purely marine climate of the Undercliff appears more peculiarly adapted. Children with a strenuous diathesis, showing a tendency to glandular enlargements, or in convalescence after illnesses to which childhood is liable, require great care to ensure that complete recovery is attained. The speedy improvement on coming here is often singularly striking. The child, instead of being confined indoors, spends almost the entire day in the open air, exercise being encouraged and gradually increased. In the early morning the time may be spent on the shingly beach, and later, when the atmosphere is warmer, at the higher and more bracing altitudes, or even on the top of the downs on suitable days. This plan of treatment soon imparts tone, the appetite increases, and the assimilative

functions aid in improving bodily nutrition, as a consequence there is a diminished susceptibility to recurrent attacks.

Should languor show itself, it may be advisable to move to the more bracing atmosphere at Niton, Black Gang, and Chale, places situated at the extreme southern point of the island near the western boundary of the Undercliff. The clear down air here is particularly bracing in May, June, and throughout the summer and early autumn months. Sheltered on the north and east by the lofty down of St. Catherine's, at a considerable elevation above the sea, this district receives the full force of the southerly and south-westerly breezes as they come up from the ocean. The air seems always in motion, and the climate, though mild, is particularly exhilarating.

With the foregoing remarks on the more prominent forms of disease, for the cure or alleviation of which the climate of the Undercliff is adapted, I shall conclude, merely adding that invalids must not expect too much from the climate alone. It is merely an auxiliary to other means, and should only be regarded in that light. Sir James Clark's remarks upon this subject are as apt now as on the day they were published :—

"The air, or climate, is often regarded by the patient as possessing some specific quality, by virtue of which it directly cures his disease. This erroneous view of the matter not unfrequently proves the bane of the invalid, by leading him, in the fulness of his confidence in climate, to neglect other circumstances as essential to his recovery as that on which all his hopes are fixed." [1]

MEDICAL STATISTICS, &c.

Quite apart from its picturesque beauties, the value of the Undercliff as a health resort must be judged by the clinical results yielded in the curative treatment of disease. Nothing can more strikingly illustrate this than the statistics furnished by a National Institution, where large numbers of invalids are placed under identical conditions and regulations, are scientifically treated, and the records of each case are entered fully by competent observers.

The following brief epitome of facts is collated from the records of the "Royal National Hospital for Diseases of the Chest," situated at St. Lawrence. The institution was founded in 1867, and occupies an area of twenty-two acres of undulating ground facing the sea. The buildings comprise eleven separate blocks, designed on the separate cottage principle. The patients in the several houses enjoy the advantage of having separate sleeping rooms with a southern aspect structurally arranged to obtain the utmost exposure to the sun and air. The sitting rooms allotted to them open out on the level plateau, and have a maximum of light and space. Taking advantage of the undulating contour of the grounds, paths extending for a mile or more have been so arranged that the systematic graduated exercise ordered by the physicians can be taken without leaving the precincts of the hospital.

[1] *The Sanative Influence of Climate*, p. 9

The cases not specially selected, nor drawn from the ranks of the well-to-do classes, are admitted in all stages of the disease, unless very marked signs of active mischief are present, or from being ineligible in other respects.

An approximate estimate of the results following medical treatment is incidentally afforded in a paper entitled "The Prevention of Consumption," by the late Dr. Sinclair Coghill.[1] The results apply to the 5,928 cases admitted during the period 1890-1898, compared with the results obtained at four well-known sanatoria on the Continent, having statistics available for comparison. Of "the 5,928 cases, 17.14 per cent. were cured, 61.11 per cent. improved (the equivalent to the "nearly cured" of the foreign sanatoria), in other words, 78.9 benefited, 17.76 did not improve, 3.95 died." Dr. Coghill goes on to say:—

"These figures speak for themselves, and show conclusively that the results of the eclectic treatment at the Hospital, which consists in the freest exposure to fresh air and sunshine, a judiciously adapted dietary, together with such therapeutic aids as the symptoms of each case may from time to time demand, compare most favourably with the other institutions under consideration."

Taking a longer period of twenty years, 1880 to 1899, I have tabulated the results of the completed treatment of 11,974 cases. The clinical details of each case, with a graphic diagram of the pulmonary condition, have been recorded at length. The results show that of the entire number, 9,198 improved in a greater or less degree—2,679 very much improved, 2,819 much improved, and 3,700 improved. Of the remaining cases 1,535 remained *in statu quo* (condition unchanged), 789 became worse, and 452 died, the majority of the deaths taking place at an early date, within a month after admission, affording a striking commentary that all conditions of disease were admitted. The medical report for 1909 furnishes the following data:—Number of completed cases during the year, 565; classified on admission according to the extent of disease: Class 1, 187; Class 2, 157; Class 3, 221. The first class were of an early stage, the second were moderately advanced, whilst the last were advanced cases. Of these patients 496, equal to 92 1-5th per cent., gained in weight, 4 unaltered, whilst 38 lost flesh, the average gain in weight being 9 pounds 5 ounces. The clinical results were that 472, equal to 83.5 per cent., improved; condition unchanged, or worse, 81 or 14.3 per cent., and 12 died. At the annual meeting, when the foregoing report was read, Dr. Robertson, the senior visiting physician, said: "That in November, 1909, the hospital had completed its fortieth year of working, 25,082 patients had entered, and 80 per cent. of all patients made substantial improvement during their residence."

The convalescent home of the Royal Hants County Hospital, in the Madeira Road, Ventnor, furnishes equally good results. Dr. Williamson, physician, when in charge, writes:—

"In no disease is a change to a genial climate at the seaside more to be recommended than in scrofula. My connection has enabled me to see how beneficial a residence there has been to strumous children with glandular

[1] *The Nineteenth Century*, Feb., 1899, p. 304.

abscesses, ear discharges, weak spines, and other exhibitions of the scrofulous state. Almost without exception, the patients have left the island in a greatly improved state of health. The Undercliff certainly deserves to be more utilised in such cases than it has hitherto been. Scores of children might there obtain a fresh foothold of life."[1]

Another convalescent home, that of the London City Mission, is located at Ventnor. Invalid members attached to the Mission come here to recruit. The "Home of Rest" is placed on the side of St. Boniface Down, at an altitude of nearly three hundred feet, and is thus admirably adapted for the object in view. Vacant places in the Home are at once occupied by holiday members coming here annually for a much needed rest and change. The invalids vary in age, from 30 to 60 years. The type of illness is chiefly of a neuro-asthenic type—a marked loss of nerve power, wakefulness, depression, etc. After the first week's stay, in the large majority of the cases the symptoms quiet down and the improvement shown is generally progressive, it being rarely necessary to exceed the month's stay accorded to this class of illness. Other types, often present at the Home, are chronic dyspeptics with nervous irritability, and catarrhal and bronchial affections during the winter months. All cases exhibit symptoms of lowered constitutional vitality. The change of scene and surroundings to a purer, less vitiated atmosphere generally suffices to impart tone to the system, and the progressive improvement in the general condition of these cases is often very striking. My personal association with the Mission enables me to say that illness of a neuro-asthenic type may be sent to Ventnor with a confident anticipation that improvement of a lasting nature will ensue.

[1] *Ventnor and the Undercliff in Chronic Pulmonary Disease*, 2nd ed.

Appendix A.

AN ACCOUNT ROLL OF BONCHURCH, A.D. 1272.[1]

The "Compotus" (*i.e.*, yearly account) of Ralph atte Cheriton, bailiff of Bonchurch, from the feast of St. Michael, the 56th year of the reign of king Henry III to the feast of St. Michael, the first year of the reign of king Edward—the last day reckoned :—

Receipts.—The same renders account of 48s. 7d., balance of arrears of preceding year. And of 49*s.*, the "Rent of Assize"[2] for the year. Of a certain custom called "Faldpeni," 14*d.* Of customary aids (rents) 10*s.* Of winter feed, sold, 2*s.* 3*d.* Of pannage,[3] 1*d.* Of perquisites of Court[4] (fines) this year, 5*s.* 6*d.* For carcase and hide of a dead ox, 3*s.* 2*d.* Of 2 bus. of wheat, 1 qr. 2 bus. of barley, 1 qr. 4 bus. of vetches, 2 bus. of malted barley, for 199 days' work (service), in winter, of 186 in autumn. For summer pasturage 6*s.* for litter (manure), sold 6*d.*

Total Receipts, £7. 19*s.* 7*d.*

Necessary outgoings—Reckoning in quittance (*i.e.*, payment) of one reeve who is bailiff of Shanklin, 6*s.* And of the bailiff of Bonchurch, nothing, because the bailiff of Rewe takes the allowance. In quittances of 2 ploughmen holding land at Shanklin, from the feast of St. Michael until Easter, and of two at Bonchurch for the same time, 12*s.* In allowances[5] for "2 customary tenants" for the whole year, 12*s.* In (allowance) ironwork for carts bought, with payment of the smith, 15½*d.* For 3 locks (or bolts) bought for the grange, 5*d.* In provender for oxen, bought, 12*d.* For 8 qrs. of barley ground and winnowed,—nothing, because used in farm service. For wheat carried in autumn and carting, 6*d.* Also for meal bought and used in labour service, 6*d.*

Sum of necessary outgoings, 53*s.* 3½*d.*

Liveries—In livery (*i.e.*, payment or delivery) made to Master Adam Payne, by 2 tallies, 51*s.* 4½*d.* And to Amis, reeve of Bouecomb, 6*s.*, by tally.

Total of the livery, 57*s.* 4½*d.*

Sum of the whole expenses and liveries, 110*s.* 7½*d.*

Owing from the bailiff, 48*s.* 11½*d.*

Of Wheat—The same renders account of wheat (received) from the bailiff of Niton, 5 qrs. 2 bus. And of the heriot of Robert de la Mere, 2 bus. Bought, 4 qrs. 5 bus.

Total, 10 qrs. 1 bus., of wheat.

Thence—in seed for sowing 26 acres 1 rood, 9 qrs. 6½ bus., and there remains 2½ bus.

Sold for the above account.

Of Barley—(The same renders his account) of the outgoings of the grange—of barley 43 qrs. 1 bus. Of the bailiff of Celerton, 4 qrs.

Total, 47 qrs. 1 bus.

[1] *Ministers' Accounts*, Bundle 984, No. 3.

[2] Meaning the fixed sum paid by the tenants, as distinguished from a variable rent.

[3] The right to drive swine into the lord's woods, to feed on the mast.

[4] That is "fines," such as a "heriot" paid at the time of a tenant's death.

[5] That is a money payment in lieu of the customary labour.

Thence—in seed, sowing 9 acres, 6 qrs. 6 bus. In brewing 5 qrs. In livery to bailiff of Shanklin, 12½ qrs. Gift to Count Will'o de la Clive, 9 qrs. Livery to bailiff of Rewe, 11 qrs. 7 bus. For harvest service in autumn 4 bus. Livery to Benedict servant (servientis) of Blakepenne, 2 bus., of barley.

Total, 45 qrs. 7 bus. remains 1 qr. 2 bus.

Sold for the above account.

Of Oats—The same returns the outgoings of the grange 8 qrs. of oats. Thence, in seed, for sowing 7½ acres, 5 qrs. 6 bus. In livery to the bailiff of Shanklin, 2 qrs. In brewing, 2 bus.

And it balances.

Of Vetches—The same returns the outgoings of the grange 2 qrs. of vetches. From the bailiff of Shanklin, 3 bus. Thence, in sowing seed 2½ acres, 7 bus. Remaining 1½ bus. Sold for the above account.

Of Malted Barley—Of barley before mentioned malted 5 qrs. Of increment, 5 bus. Total, 5 qrs. 5 bus.

Thence—in livery to the bailiff of Wodinton, 2 qrs. Henry, bailiff of the Castle, 3 qrs. 3 bus. Total, 5 qrs. 3 bus.

Remaining 2 bus. Sold for the above account.

Of Malted Oats—Of oats before mentioned, 3 bus. malted. In livery to bailiff of Wodinton.

Of Oxen—Remaining (in stock) from the year preceding, 10 oxen. Thence, died of murrain, j ox. In livery to bailiff of Bouecumbe, 9 oxen.

And it balances.

Of Hens—Received for churchscot, 29 hens.

Thence—in quittance of the bailiff of Shanklin, 4 hens. In livery to Henry, bailiff of the Castle, 20 hens. Used for lord Jordan la Warre,[1] 5 hens.

And it balances.

Of Pigeons—The outgoings of the dove-cot, 23 pigeons, all used in the Count's service.

Cheese—Received from the bailiff of Wodinton j cheese. Used for harvest service, in autumn.

Plough—The same accounts for 1 plough, delivered to the bailiff of Bouecumbe with all the harness.

Labour—The same renders (account) of service of 7 customary tenants, working from the feast of St. Michael to that of St. Peter ad Vincula, and the total service is 1,447 days' work, and each man's work is worth half a day.

Of which—in quittance of 1 reeve of Shanklin for the same time, 221 days' service. In quittance of two ploughers employed at Shanklin until the 16th day of April and of two, at Bonchurch, 76 works. Harrowing 45 acres, 43 works. Threshing and winnowing 4 bus. of vetches, 41 qrs. of vetches, 7½ qrs. of oats, 132 works. In carrying hay and straw, and corn sent to Clinam, 80 works. Carrying fish to the Castle, making hedges, collecting wood and taking to the grange, 30 works. In hoeing 42½ acres, 42 works. In livery to Benedict, of Blakepenne, 12 works, to the bailiff of Shanklin, 112 works.

Total outgoing expenses, 1,248 works.

And remaining, of service 199—Reckoned in above account.

The same renders account of services of the aforesaid customary tenants, working from the feast of the Blessed Peter ad Vincula until St. Michael's day, and the total service for this same time, 301 works. And each (man's) work is worth a penny.[2]

[1] Jordan la Warre attested countess Isabella de Fortibus' charter to Christchurch, in 1272, and was left, in 1274, as steward in charge of Carisbrooke Castle.

[2] A Roman silver coin, equivalent to ten, but later to sixteen asses—worth about 8½*d.* of English money.

Thence—reaping and threshing and carrying 36 acres of wheat, 9 of barley, 7 of oats, 2½ of vetches, 88 works—bringing corn down to the grange and storing in the grange, 45 works. In quittance of one bailiff of Shanklin, 43 works.

Total service, 186 works.

Remaining 115. Sold for the above account.

ACCOUNT ROLL OF REWE GRANGE.

The Compotus of Henry le Yongge from the feast of St. Michael, the 56th year of king Henry III to the same feast of St. Michael, the first year of king Edward :—

Receipts—The same renders for the arrears from the preceding year, £4. 11*s*. For " rent of assize " for the year, £4. 11*s*. 2*d*. For " customary aids," 13*s*. 4*d*. For " Court perquisites " for the year, 12*s*. 4*d*. For a certain custom called " Valdpeny," 4*d*. Rent of 4 plough shares, 12*d*. For 6 iron shackles and 5 pounds wax, sold, 3*s*. 6*d*. So much less this year, because one pound of wax was customarily given. Of summer pasture 2*s*. 2*d*., so much less because the pasture was grazed by the Count's sheep. Of " stipulation," 3*d*., De Cambio, sold 6*d*. For two hogget skins,[1] 4 skins of lambs, before birth, 7*d*. For 1½ bus. of wheat, 5 bus. of barley, 6 bus. of malted barley, 4 bus. of malted oats, 4 lambs with one fleece, 6 lambs skins, 4 hens, one plough with complete outfit. 194 days' work, in winter, 178 days' work in summer. Reckoned in above account, 30s.

Sum total of receipts, £12. 6*s*. 2*d*.

Necessary outgoings—Of which in quittance for the manor and for the bailiff of Bonchurch, for the year, 12*s*. In quittance of 4 herdsmen until Eastertide, 12*s*. In quittance of 1 fold-tender from the feast of St. Martin, until the feast of the Blessed Peter ad Vincula, 3*s*. 9*d*. In quittance of one keeper having charge of lambs from the feast of the Discovery of the Holy Cross until the feast of St. Michael, 3*s*. In quittance of one customary tenant's work for every day in the year, and of one customary tenant's service from the feast of St. Michael until the Discovery of the Holy Cross, 9*s*. In account for the shoeing of the customary plough oxen and repair of the iron framework of the customary's plough and payment of smith, 2*s*. 3½*d*. Repairs to house, 8*d*. For 15 qrs. of barley, 9 of oats, ground and winnowed, 2*s*. 8½*d*. For 6 qrs. of wheat, bought, 26*s*. For hay and straw for oxen—bought, 9*s*. 5½*d*. Carrying wheat, in autumn, 11d.

Total necessary outgoings, £4. 1*s*. 10½*d*.

Livery—In livery to Master Adam Payn, receiver, £4. 17*s*. 0½*d*. In livery to the bailiff of Bouecumbe, 10*s*.

Sum total of livery, 107*s*. 0½*d*.

Sum of the whole expenses and livery, £9. 8*s*. 11*d*.

And so the bailiff owes 57*s*. 3*d*.

Wheat—The same renders (account of wheat). Received from the bailiff of Niton, 5 qrs. 5 bus. And from the bailiff of Apeltreford, 4 bus. And from perquisites, 1 qr. 7 bus. And of wheat, bought as aforesaid, 6 qrs.

Total 14 qrs.

Thence—In seed sowing, 33½ acres 12 qrs. 3½ bus. In mixed wheat, 1 qr. 3 bus.

And there remains 1½ bus.

Sold for above account.

Barley—The same returns the outgoings of the grange. Of barley, 28 qrs. 7 bus. From the bailiff of Bonchurch, 11 qrs. 7 bus. Of mixed wheat as aforesaid, 1 qr. 3 bus.

Total 42 qrs. 2 bus.

[1] Yearling sheep.

Of which—In seed sowing 15 acres 10½ qrs. In livery of one harvest man, by the year, 3 qrs. 7 bus., a quarter of corn being taken for every 12 weeks. In livery to John, bailiff of Bouecumbe, 6 qrs. In livery to bailiff of Apeltreford, 9½ qrs. In livery to the bailiff of Celerton, 4 bus. In brewing (used) 10½ qrs. In livery to the bailiff of Sorewell, 4 bus. In harvest work (used) in the autumn, 2 bus.

Total 41 qrs. 5 bus.
And there remains 5 bus.
Sold for above account.

Oats—Of the outgoings of oats, 15 qrs. 2 bus. And from the bailiff of Apetreford, 5½ qrs. And the bailiff of Celerton, 2 qrs.

Total, 22 qrs. 6 bus.

Thence, in sowing 13 acres 10 qrs. 2 bus. In livery of bailiff of Apeltreford, 2½ qrs. And to the bailiff of Bouecumbe, 9 qrs. And in brewing, 2 qrs.

Total as before. And it balances.

Vetches—The outgoings of vetches, 2 qrs. 6 bus. Of the bailiff of Niton, 3 bus.

Total, 3 qrs. 1 bus.

The whole used in seed for sowing 9 acres.

Malted barley—Received of barley as afore stated 10½ qrs. Of increment, 1 qr. 2½ bus.

Total, 11 qrs. 6½ bus.

Thence, in livery to Henry, bailiff of the Castle, 10½ qrs. And to the bailiff of Wodinton, 4 bus. malted.

Total used 11 qrs.
And there remains 6½ bus.
Sold for above account.

Malted Oats—Received of oats as afore stated 2 qrs. malted. Thence, in livery to the bailiff of the Castle, 1 qr. And to the bailiff of Wodinton, 4 bus.

Total, 1 qr. 4 bus.
And there remains 4 bus.
Sold for above account.

Oxen—The same returns for 10 oxen remaining (in stock) from the preceding year. Heriot of John de Stepeltone, one. And of the bailiff of Apeltreford, 8.

Total, 19 oxen.

Thence—In livery to the bailiff of Wodinton, 1. And to the bailiff of Niton, 1. In livery to Amis, bailiff of Bouecumbe, 17.

And so the account balances.

Hoggetts—The same renders (account) of 138 hoggetts received before shearing, of the bailiff of Bouecumbe.

Of these—2 died from murrain before shearing. In livery to the bailiff of Bouecumbe, 133, after shearing of these 64 males. Died of murrain after shearing, 3.

And so the account balances.

Lambs—The same returns the lambing of the aforesaid ewes at 16. Of the bailiff of Apeltreford, 184 lambs.

Total lambs received, 200.

Thence—In livery to Amis, bailiff of Bouecumbe, 174. And died of murrain before shearing, 6. And after shearing, 4. In livery to the bailiff of the Castle, before shearing, 12.

Total 196, and there remains 4.
Sold for above account.

Fleeces—Received from the afore-mentioned hoggetts, 136.

Thence—In tithes, 13. In livery to Amis, bailiff of Bouecumbe, 123.

Total, 136. And so it balances.

Lambs fleeces—Received from the aforesaid lambs, 182 fleeces.

Thence—In livery to Amis, bailiff of Bouecumbe, 181. And there remains 1.

Sold for above account.

Small skins, with wool—Received from the aforesaid hoggets, 4 skins with wool.

Sold for above account.

Skins—Received from the same, 3 skins—died from murrain.

Sold for above account.

Lamb skins—Received from the afore-mentioned lambs, 10. Of these, sold 4. And remaining 6.

Sold for above account.

Hens—The same accounts for 58 hens (received) from Churchscot. Of these, in quittance to the bailiff of Bonchurch and Rewe, 8. In livery to the bailiff of the Castle, 46.

Remaining, 4.

Sold for above account.

Plough-shares—The same renders account of 4 plough-shares from the "rent of assize."

Reckoned in the above account.

(N.B.—The next item cannot be translated.)

Wax—The same returns for 5 pounds of wax "of recognition."

Reckoned in the above account.

Ploughs—The same renders for 2 ploughs with all necessary fittings. Of these, in livery to the bailiff of Bonchurch 1, remaining, 1, with the equipment.

Reckoned in the above account.

Labour—The same renders account of the services of 10 customary tenants, of whom, some will work daily from the feast of St. Michael to the feast of St. John the Baptist, and the total for the time is 1,850 works.

Of these—in acquittance of the same bailiff and of one bailiff at Bonchurch, for the same time, 370 works. In acquittance of four ploughers, from the feast of St. Michael to the 16th day of the month of April, 576 works. In acquittance of two shepherds, one of whom serves for the whole year, and the other continues shepherd, by the week, until the feast of St. John the Baptist, 215 works. For twelve quarters of barley, five quarters of oats with six bushels, two quarters with five bushels of vetches, ground and winnowed, 54 works. Harrowing 33 acres of wheat, 15 acres of fine barley, 13 acres of oats and 9 acres of vetches, 105 works. For wheat and malt taken to the Castle, 70 works. Carting hay and straw (litter) with fish taken to the Castle, 120 works. For spreading manure, for washing and shearing sheep, for inspecting folds and for catching rabbits, 40 works. Livery to Robert, bailiff of Shanklin, 106 works.

Total service, 1,656 works, and remaining 194.

Sold for the above account.

The same (renders) account of the labours of ten customary tenants, serving from the feast of St. John the Baptist, to the feast of St. Michael, whose daily service, and of the work of four customary tenants, serving from the 1st of August to the feast of St. Michael, which is sixteen weeks, for three days in every week, and the total service for this time is 776 works.

Of these—in acquittance of the service of two bailiffs, before mentioned 136 works. Gift of count William de Clina, 12 works. Digging pasture land, 4 works. Cutting corn 122 works, fencing round the Court, 12 works. Cutting, stacking and carrying corn, 160 works. In agreement, gathering straw and taking to the grange, 12, cutting and collecting wood for the same, 14 works. Making hurdles, 5 works. Livery to the bailiff of Shanklin, 106 works. Livery to Benedict, of Blakepenne, 15 works.

Total service, 598 works, and remaining 178 works,
Reckoned in the above account.

The "Compotus"[1] for Bonchurch, the following year, 2 Edward I, is rendered by John Norman, and for Rew grange the return is made by John Hardwine and Thomas Norman. Both accounts are given in less detail. The bailiff of Niton for this year is Richard, no surname being given.

[1] *Ministers' Accounts*, Bundle 984, No. 4.

Appendix B.

AN INVENTORY OF THE GOODS AND CHATTELS OF SIR RICHARD WORSLEY, OF APPULDURCOMBE, A.D. 1566.

This schedule was taken some little time after the death of Sir Richard Worsley, who bequeathed in his will (dated December, 1564, proved July, 1565) the manors of Appuldurcombe, Cliffe and Weeke, with other properties, to his wife during widowhood. Lady Worsley soon afterwards married Sir Francis Walsingham, the famous Secretary of State, and since the date of the inventory is 1566, it was probably taken on the occasion of the marriage.

"An Inventorye made in the eight yeare of the reigne of our Soveraine Ladye Elizabethe, bye the Grace of God Quene of England, France and Ireland, defendor of the faith, etc., Betwene Frauncis Walsinghm̄, Esquire, and Ursula, his wyffe, late the wyffe of Richard Worsleye, of Appledercombe, in the Isle of Wight and Countye of Southampton, deceased, of the one partye, and John Worsleye, of Swainstone, sole executor of the laste Will and Testamet of the said Richard Worsleye, deceased of the other partye, as well of all the houseboulde stuffe, implements of House and Husbandrye, Armor, Municon, Stocks of Corne and Cattall with the pryces thereof, as allso of suche plate as is bye the said Executor delivered unto the saide Frauncis and Ursula, his wyffe (for and during such tyme and terme as is more at large mencyoned and specyfied in their present Indentures hereunto annexed) as in this present Sedule particulerlye is expressed and declared."

The period is decidedly interesting from a social point of view. Following upon the devastation caused by the "Wars of the Roses," which proved so destructive to the nobility and wealthy landowners, many changes took place. The Reformation brought others in its train, the result being an almost general revolution in the domestic customs and habits of the upper and middle classes, and these changes are reflected in the inventory before us.

During the 15th and early part of the 16th centuries these social changes had been comparatively few, but, with the greater security which prevailed, the wealth and importance of the upper and middle classes grew rapidly. This is shown in the improved conditions which governed the household arrangements, the multiplication of the rooms, the more lavish expenditure on the articles, as well as in the character of the household furniture and domestic appliances, which had been wanting in the earlier years. Throughout the 15th and the early part of the 16th centuries houses of any magnitude were built round an interior court, into which the rooms almost invariably looked, and it was only the smaller unimportant windows that for security opened out on the street or country. The Priory House of Appuldurcombe, during the several tenancies by the Monks and the Nuns Minoresses of St. Clare, probably

exhibited these characteristics. Structural changes, with possible enlargement of the domestic offices, took place during the successive tenancies of Sir John Legh and the first two members of the Worsley family. This house, however, Mr. Percy Stone thinks, was pulled down and entirely rebuilt by Sir Richard Worsley during his tenure of the estates between 1538-64, since the etching of the house (see p. 148), taken a century and a half later, appears to be of later date than the original Priory House, which stood on or near the site.[1] The print is dated 1690, showing a building of the type characteristic of the time, facing south-east, the centre mostly taken up by the Hall, with projecting wings enclosing a court, on the north side of which stood the Chapel, on the south side the parlours and staircase, while beyond, north and south, lay the stables on the one hand, on the other the great dining room with the library over it. Since no reference is made in the inventory to these two latter rooms, it is more than probable they were added at a later period. It was in the Priory House that Richard Worsley had the honour of entertaining Henry VIII. and his minister, Cromwell, 1539-40. This house was finally pulled down in 1710, and the present mansion erected on the site.

The arrangement of the rooms and the furnishing of the several apartments may well be taken as typically illustrating the domestic arrangements in vogue with the wealthier classes at this period.

Before proceeding with the inventory, it will be well to explain that the money value given in those days was some ten times more than it is now, that is, that the sums mentioned should be multiplied by ten to give approximately the corresponding modern value. The reference numbers in the following enumeration refer to descriptive notes at the end of this appendix.

In the Hawle,

	s.	d.
Imprimis, ij Table bords, and iiij tressils, with turned pillors, ij plain formes	6	8
Item, 15 Table clothes of canvas, for the Hawle	16	0
Item, 15 Table clothes of white canvas	22	0
Item, a clothe with a frame of the King's Armes	2	0

The spirit of change already referred to is shown here, for at the time when the indenture was made domestic changes had evidently taken place affecting this room. From the earliest period, right on through the fifteenth century, "the Hall" was the most important and spacious part of the house, forming the principal portion of the building, having the main or principal entrance into it, where the chief windows were placed, being used more or less as a public room where the meals were served. This room, till the early part of the sixteenth century, was furnished with a table standing lengthways in the centre of the room, formed of boards, laid upon moveable trestles, whilst forms or benches were the usual seats, which could be occupied by several persons. At the upper end on a dais, or raised platform, was the high

[1] *Architectural Antiquities of the Isle of Wight*, vol. i, p. 57.

table. A reference to the furniture will show that the Hall had fallen into disuse, and was evidently becoming the mere entrance lobby to the house. We may note two features which reveal this. No reference is made to the tapestry hangings or curtains, with which the hall was usually furnished, and the employment of which was made a special feature during this century. The inference is confirmed by the absence of another important article usually found in the Hall, *viz.*, the aumbry or cupboard, constructed in very early times in the most primitive way, of boards standing on trestles to display the cups, etc.; a board for the cups in fact—hence the modern word cupboard. It is evident that the Hall had ceased to be the public room, and had lost the importance of earlier days.

A new room was coming into vogue, called a "parlor" or "talking room." Large houses were often provided with more than one of these rooms, and as domestic life assumed greater privacy than when people lived together in the hall, the parlour became the living room. In the will of Mr. Alderman Arthur Roby, of Winchester, A.D. 1545,[1] one of the rooms is called "the Hall Parlour," and the other "the Street Parlour." Though used in London at this period as a dining room, in the country, where social changes were slow, the room seems to have been considered as an amalgamation of store room and bedroom.

The inventory of the furniture of the rooms, called "The Grete" and "Little Parlors," show they were used here as the chief rooms of entertainment. Both rooms were situated on the south side of the court, and the "Grete Parlor" is mentioned as having two windows with fixed seats. The "Little Parlor," apparently formed a sort of ante-room to the larger apartment, and was

	s.	*d.*
"hanged aboute wth greene saye,[1] wth a border of storis, ...	5	0
Item, one table of weinscotte, wth ij tressells wth turned pillors. Item, one joined forme	6	8
Item, one turned cheyre		8
Item, a syde cupborde, wth a shelf and a bottom wth iiij turned pillors		16
The estimated value of the whole in those days being	13	8

"In the Grete Parlor."

Imprimis, a weinscote table borde of two yeardes and three quarters longe; Item, ii tressels wth turned pillors, 4 joined forms	10	0
Item, a sydebord wth a frame and a bottome to the same of Firr—a square table wth a cupborde in hit, a scrine of wyker in a frame	4	0
Item, one joyned cheire wth two turnede pillors of weinscotte; one woman's cheire of weinscotte wth turn'd pillors	3	4
Item, 12 joynede stooles wth turned pillors	6	6
Item, 12 cushins of arrace worke[2]	10	0
Item, 2 stooles for woman wth turned pillors		12
Item, one longe table borde standinge by the waule		12
Item, a table of Kynge Henry the 7th	2	6
Item, a fyer shovell, a paire of tongs wth turned ends of copper, ii dogs of iron, and a payre of billows	2	0
Item, one oulde carpete of greene brode cloth[3]	4	0

[1] *Hants Notes & Queries*, vol. viii, p. 101.

	s.	d.
The tapestry hangings for this room were "of green saye," valued at	10	0
Item, 6 painted canvas clothes, viz., one of Sodome and Gomorre, one of Hipocrisse,[4] 2 other wth ladies, and one wth a fleminge[5] ...	6	0
Item, 2 courteine rodds of yron there		16

The painted clothes referred to above were either wall decorations or were intended to be placed over the benches or on the backs of the chairs. An almost identical inventory of the goods and chattels of Sir Richard Poulett is given in *The Ancestor,* Vol. 3, 1902.

A noticeable feature shown in the Inventory from time to time is the economical forethought evinced by the housekeeper, for we find stored away "in the lobbye," to be used upon state occasions only :—

"One faire carpette woorke, wth the Kinge's armes wrought in" ...	40	0
Item, 3 carpetts of one sorte of carpette woorke, for the two windows in the parlor, and the sydeborde	20	0
The musical instruments mentioned are "a collayne[6] lute," wth a case, 10s., "a gitthorne,"[7] 5s. 0d., and "an olde pair of virginalls"[8]	6	8

Till the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and after her accession to the throne, England had a close connection with the Netherlands and Germany, and most of our novelties and fashions were imported from our Protestant neighbours on the Continent. This was especially so with the furniture, the joinery wood of Flanders taking the place of the older rude and clumsy seats. Seats of this description were termed "joint," or "joined chairs or stools." The furniture mentioned here still continues to be of a primitive type, a movable table of boards placed on trestles, with forms for seats. The cup, or side board, as we term it, is now peculiar to this part of the house, having been removed from the hall, and is found to be of very simple construction. One advance is shown, in the legs or pillars, as they are termed, being turned in the lathe. No mention is made of shelves or steps, on which the different articles of plate brought out at dinner time could be shown in rows one above the other. Soon after this date the sideboard is found to be of a more elaborate construction, shelves and doors being added to it, shutting up the plate when not in use. The side table in the room is of the same early type, "a bord standing by the wall."

Of the Bed Chambers.

Before describing in detail the contents of the various rooms, a few explanatory remarks may help us to appreciate better the conditions which prevailed at this period.

During the Middle Ages the bedroom was, properly speaking, the woman's apartment, and accommodation of the kind was limited. It was not uncommon for several people to sleep in the same room, and few housekeepers had any extra chambers for strangers. When visitors came a bed was made for them on the floor, either in their own chamber, or more usually on the floor of the hall. In the 15th century accommodation of this kind increased, though the room, like those in other parts of the house, would appear to have been furnished barely. Besides a bench or stool to sit upon, there was usually a chair of a large and

roomy size, with four turned pillars or posts, and generally a small table was provided for the lady of the house. The 16th century differs from former periods notably in these respects—in the increased number of rooms, in the much greater number of beds, and in the greater abundance and the improved character of the bed furniture associated with them. Few of the principal bedrooms in Appuldurcombe had less than two beds in them, and the form of the bedstead was now almost universally that having four posts. A bed of a new construction came into use about this period, called a "truckle" or "trundle bed," which rolled under the larger bed, and was intended for the use of the valet, maid, or other servant.

The bed itself, being the most important article of furniture, was often made ornamental. It was a matter of pride to have it furnished with handsome curtains and coverings, the material of which varied as to its richness. The "tester bed," or bed with a roof at the head, mentioned in the inventory, was one introduced by the Normans; the celure, or roof of the canopy, and the tester,[9] or back, were fixed to the wall and ceiling of the apartment, and not attached to the bed itself. Both were often adorned with the arms of the possessor, or with flowers, or some other ornament. The bedrooms were often stored with chests or coffers, also called hutches, frequently of large size, in which to place papers and valuables.

The bedroom accommodation at Appuldurcombe consisted of six principal rooms, two of these having a smaller room leading from them called the "inner chambre," and five secondary rooms with four servants' apartments. The guest chambers were severally named:—"Paradise," "The Broade," "St. John's," and the "Portche" chambers. Two other rooms are named as "Mr. Richard Worsley's" and "My Lady's Chamber," whilst two smaller rooms were occupied by the two children. The secondary rooms were named as follows:—"The Chapell," "The Stillitorye," "The Maidens," "The Greene," and "Mrs. Bremshott's Chambers." The estimated value of the contents of these several rooms were very nearly equal; any difference was due to the inclusion of some extra article of furniture.

The "Paradise Chambre" may be taken as typical of the guest room in wealthy houses at this period, the inventory of the contents, with the then estimated value, being as follows:—

	s.	d.
Imprimis, a standinge beddsteed, corded wth iij curteine rodds of yron	2	0
Item, a Tester to the same, wth a pawne[10] in the Middeste of Tawney[11] Vellett,[12] powdered wth Lyons hedds imbrodered and Lers, W.A.I. wth the Worsleyes and the Leighs Armes imbrodered in the same pawne, and two other pawnes pownced[13] wth white Sarcanet[14] and russett Sattin. Item, the Vallannce is of the same Stuffe with a deepe frendge of white and purple Silke	33	4
Item, five courteins of purple and yelleawe Sarcenet	10	0
Item, a fether bedd, and a fether boulster. Item, ij pillowes of Downe	24	0
Item, a paire of white woullen Blanketts	3	0
Item, a whomemade coverled of blacke and yealowe yearne[15]	4	0

	s.	d.
Item, 6 turned bedstaves, 4*d*. Item, a truckle beddsteed of joyners worke corded	3	8
Item, one standinge beddsteed in the east eand of the same Chambre corded, wth foure turned pillors, and the hedd haulfe seeled[16] wth the frenche panell wth a trimer and 3 courteine rodds of Iron ...	10	0
Item, a tester to the same, wth a pawne in the mideste of Tawney Vellot, powdered wth Lyons hedds imbrodered and Lers, viz., W.A.I., wth the Worsleyes Armes and the Lyons hedd upon the Helmet imbrodered in the same pawne, and two other pawnes of russett Satan and white Sarcenet pounced, the vallance of the same wth a deepe freindge of white and purple Silke	33	4
Item, 3 Courteins of white and purple Sarcenet	13	4
Item, 2 fether bedds, one fether boulster, and 2 pillowes of Downe ...	33	4
Item, one pair of woullen blankets	3	4
Item, a square borde wth a frame and bottome wth foure turned pillors	3	4
Item, a turned chaire, wth foure turned postes		12
Item, a cushin of carpet woorke, wth a rose in the midest, and powdered wth black flowre de Luyce	3	0
The chamber is hangid about wth ould stayned clothes, pawned redd and yealowe, wth a border of Histories. An oulde cheire covered wth leather	6	10

Apart from the beds and the coverings, the room would appear to have been otherwise scantily furnished. The curtains were of yealowe and russett sarcenet. No reference is made to any carpets, or to any of the usual bedroom accessories. The coverlets of the several beds in the principal rooms appear to have been stored away, with other things, in "two shippe chests" in the "Copplofts," and are described as follows:—

	s.	d.
Item, one coverlede of arrace, wth the picture of a woman having a naked childe in her arms	26	8
Item, one Coverlett of arrace, wth the Antilopps hedd, wth Leaves and Braunches	40	0
Item, another coverlett of arrace, wth a Lyon and Panther in hit ...	20	0
Item, one coverlede of arrace, braunched and powdered wth pomegranetts and roses	20	0
Item, one large coverlett of arrace, wth the stock of Jesse wrought in hit	33	4
Item, one coverledd of redd Bruschian,[17] streaked wth yealowe silk, lynde wth white fuschian,[18] and frendged wth redd and yealowe sylke	13	4
Item, one Coverlett of clothe, violett colour, lyned wth white fuschian, frendged about wth tawneye cruell,[19] wth a welt[20] of blewe cruell upon the same	12	0
Item, one quilte of blacke taffata,[21] lyned wth blacke saye	26	0
Item, a Canopye, the hedd whereof is of blacke sattan and yealowe Damaskque, wth vallance to the same, frendged wth black and yealowe Sylke, the courteins being of blacke and yealowe Sarcenet	33	4

"The Broade Chambre" was the second guest room, placed in the south wing, being over the parlour, and having two windows looking out into the court. In some particulars this would seem to have been a more comfortable room:—

	s.	d.
Imprimis, a standinge beddstead wth foure turned pillors, wth haulf seeled hedd of the Frentche panell wth a trymer and 3 courteine rods of yron	10	0

	s.	d.
Item, a Tester to the same, of Blacke Sattan and Yealowe Damaske brainched,[22] and a Vallance to the same Freindged and tasselled wth blacke and yealowe silke	30	0
Item, five courteines of black and yellowe sarcenet	20	0
Item, one bedd of Downe, a bowlster and 2 pillowes of the same ...	60	0
Item, a lardge quilte of white Holland, to lye upon the same bedd ...	6	8
Item, a coverlett of arrace, wth a picture of a Gentlewoman presentinge a Dishe of Frute	26	8
Item, a truckle beddsteed of Joyners worke, 3*s.* 4*d.*, a fether bedd and boulster	16	8
Item, 2 pillowes of Downe, 4*s.* 0*d.*, 2 Blanketts of Kerseye,[23] 3*s.* 4*d.*	7	4
Item, a coverlett of ymagerye, wth a picture of a Turk houldinge a sworde in his hand, 6*s.* 3*d.*, a standinge cupborde wth turned pillors	10	0
Item, a carpett to the same, and 2 carpetts for the 2 windows of carpet worke	8	4
Item, a joyned chaire of Cosman worke. Item, 2 loe joyned stooles for woman	5	0
Item, 2 longe cushins of Tawneye Vellet, 16*s.* 0*d.* Item, 4 lardge cushins of carpett worke wth roses and blacke flowre de luice bottomed wth leather	28	0
Item, Hangins of greene saie over the seelinge of the same Chambre, of 2 footes deepe, fastened to a trymer	6	8
Item, a water pott of Tynne	0	12
The "inner chambre," within the Brode Chambre, had fittings to the two beds, standing and truckle, of the usual inexpensive character, the whole being valued at	28	4

"The St. John's Chambre" was furnished much in the same way, "the tapestry hangings were of greene saye wth a border of Histories, wth the window drapings of the same." The bed was upholstered "wth green Sattan of Bridges,[24] frendged wth white and green Silke," and wth the "fether" bedding, the total value of the whole was 74*s.* The "plaine truccle beddsteed," called here "the field bedd," was more richly furnished than is found elsewhere in the list, "the bed being of Downe," wth two pillows of the same, estimated to be worth 31*s.* 4*d.* The curtains to the two windows in this room and the tapestry hangings were "of green saye wth a border of Histories." Amongst the other items enumerated are "a blewe trimmed mantell 5*s.* 0*d.*, an ould redd mantell, a rown'd table, a carpett of carpette woorke, an old arrace cushin wth Squerrils, one Andiorne and a 'gone chambre.'" This last was a little receptable connected with the fireplace, and intended to hold candlesticks, cups, and other small articles. The estimated value of the contents of this room, according to modern computation, would amount to some seventy pounds.

The "Portche Chambre" presented no special characteristics, having the usual "tester and pallet beds, a sydeborde of joined work wth an upright frame, a joined stoole, one cushin of carpett woorke wth white iroses and blacke flowre de luice." The total value was £3. 8*s.* 8*d.*

"Mr. Richard Worsley's" room had a great variety in the way of furniture. "The seeled beddsteed wth tester to the same," white and black courteins of sack clothe, fether bedd and boulsters, Downe pillows, wth fine Holland quilte," were valued at £3. 16*s.*

	s.	d.
Item, iij cushins of redd imbrodered Damaske, of yealowe vellet, of red Sattan of Bridges, pieced and imbrodered	6	0
Item, one cheire, covered wth redd clothe	5	0
Item, a littel square table wth a frame, a shelfe and bottome	3	0
Item, one fouldinge Table wth ii leaves (a novelty introduced at this period), and a cupbord wth Locke and Kaye under the same ...	3	4
Item, one joyned chaire, one loe cheire of Wallnutt tre for a woman ...	3	0
Item, one longe cushin, of redd sattan imbrodered	2	0
Item, a Spruce[25] Chest wth divers boxes in hym, wth locke and Kaye	10	0
Item, one howre glasse wth a frame of blacke bone and a case for hym	4	0
Item, a cupbord of Cosman woorke, a draught to the same bottomed	3	4
Item, a bason and yeawre of pewter	3	4
Item, a highe standinge cupbord, wth a shelfe wth iii leaves and iii draught boxes, and a cupbord clothe of Dornax[26]	6	0
Item, one Chafer of Brass, one paire of Tongs, a fyre panne (*i.e.*, a chimney grate coming into vogue at this period)	3	0
Item, ii candle snuffers and one tostinge yron		6
Item, the Chambre hanged wth canvas prented wth Flocks damasque woorke in pawnes,[27] viz., white and blewe, redd and yealowe ...	6	8
Item, a picture of Cleopatra	3	4

The whole of the furniture valued together at the time was £7. 3*s.* 6*d.*

The "inner chambre" within this room was similarly furnished, "the posts of the bed being carved wythe flowers gilted," the "Tester was pawned wth scarlett and greene and redd Sattan of Bridges, the vallaunce of the same like Stuffe frendged wth redd and cruell," wth curtains of the same materials, "one quilte of Flocks, one white Dudd,[28] a grete Tynnen Basson, a warminge panne, ii Shippe chests wth covers, rown'd and square, one longe wyned cheste of Cosmane woorke, one Truccle beddsteed, a hamper of Wyker, one yron to make waffers." The whole had a then estimated value of 58*s.* 4*d.*

"My Lady's Chambre" had "a beddsteed wth iiii turned posts of a yearde highe, bottomed wth sack clothe, a canoype of Dornax pawned wth blewe and yealowe, two whomemade coverletts, one of blacke and yealowe yearne, the other of greene buschian straked wth yealowe silke, lined wth white fuschian and frendged wth yealowe and greene silke, four joyned stooles for women wth seats, one oulde plaine cupboard of boards, a gonne chambre in the chymneye, one cheire of strawe, an oulde carpett of Darnax. The chambre is hanged about wth canvas prented wth flocks Damasque woorke, the pawne white and blewe, redd and yealowe, a clothe wth the Picture of St. Hierome," etc., etc. Total then value, £4. 5*s.*

"In the Great Standinge Cheste in my Ladies Chambre" were the following stores of linen with the several prices :—

	s.	d.
Imprimis, one paire of Sheetes of fyne Holland	20	0
Item, iiiior other paire of fine holland, not so good as the other ...	40	0
Item, one other paire, more worne	6	8
Item, iiii paire of lardge canvas sheetes	40	0

	s.	d.
Item, ii paire of do. that were worne	6	8
Item, oulde sheete in the cheste, to cover the same Lynnen		6
Item, iii Lavender baggs		3
Item, ii cupborde clothes, stained calocowe, redd and white	6	8
Sum total £6	0	9

Other supplies of household linen existed in the two store rooms, called "The Copplofts," one being over the Broade and the other over the Chapell chambers :—

	£	s.	d.
Imprimis, one shippe cheste wth a rownde heade		2	0
Item, a greate plaine Cheste of boords, wth Locke and Kaye ...		2	0
Item, 41 paire of coarse canvas sheetes, beinge whole	6	4	0
Item, one greate carved cheste, wth Locke and Kaye		3	0
Item, 21 paire of white canvas sheetes of ii bredthes in do.	4	10	0
Item, 9 Table Clothes of new canvas, in the same cheste		10	0
Item, syxe paire of pillchers [29] of fyne whited canvas		8	0
Item, iii paire of fuschian blanketts, in the same cheste		16	0
Item, a shippe cheste, wth a rown'd lead standinge next the door, contg. :—		2	0
Item, 17 Napkins of diaper, straked wth blewe		11	4
Item, 13 do. of Damaske woorke, 8*s.* 8*d.* 10 other plain diaper, 5*s.*		13	8
Item, iii Towells of damaske woorke, beinge 7 yards the peece ...		10	0
Item, ii other fine Diaper Towells, conteyninge 8 yards the piece ...		6	8
Item, 7 other longe Towells, meete for the borde, 10*s.* Item, 5 diaper Lyverye towells	1	3	4
Item, one brode borde clothe, of 9 yeards longe and 2 yeards brode		12	0
Item, 2 fine Diaper borde clothes, of eighte yeards longe and an ell and a nail brode		8	0
Item, 11 oulde Diaper bord clothes, or cupborde and towell clothes		16	1
Item, a Presse wth four leaves, 10s. iiiior square cushins of blewe vallet embrodered, 10*s.*		20	0
Item, ii longe cushins of Tawney yellot, 10*s.* Item, ii square of the same sort, 6*s.*		16	0
Item, ii littell square cushins of yealowe vellot. Item a longe cushin of Sattan of Bridges		6	0

This was not the entire stock, for there is a subsequent entry of "Percells of Stuffe that were in divers places" :—

	£	s.	d.
Item, 32 paire of Sheetes, oulde and worne		53	4
Item, one peece of Canvas cont. 23 ells, 28*s.* One other peece of 29 ells, 27*s.*		55	0
Item, four other peeces, together conteyninge 69 ells		69	0
Item, 8 white Kerseys [30]	12	0	0

The estimated value, then was £40. 17*s.* 5*d.*, or, according to the present day valuation, some four hundred pounds.

The secondary bedchambers presented no special features. Beyond the mere bed and bedding the rooms were bare of furniture, except a plain cupboard and the simple short forms standing on tressles, the estimated value of the contents varying in the several rooms from 22*s.* to 29*s.*, according to the value of the bed furniture.

"The Chappell" was decorated in the simplest and plainest fashion, in accordance, no doubt, with the spirit of the times. The inventory reads as follows:—

	s.	d.
Imprimis, the Communion table, standinge upon an oulde frame, and a carpett upon the same, of Dornax straked wth blewe, greene, and redd	0	8
Item, a Bible of the largeste volume and a Communion Booke ...	5	0
Item, iiij longe Cushions of Russett Sattane of bridges, imbrodered wth potts and flowers	6	8
Item, iiij square Cushins of redd mockadowe,[31] bottomed wth leather, imbrodered wth flowers. Item, ij square Cushins of the same ...	5	0
Item, ii longe forms, wth ij olde clothes upon the same of Dornax, and a longe table borde	2	0
Item, a Sanctus Bell,[32] hanginge in the courte	5	0
the whole estimated to the worth	24	4

The next section of the inventory is devoted to a catalogue of the plate, which is described under three separate divisions, as "Guilte," 340 ounces, and valued at 5*s.* the ounce, "Percell" do., 507 ounces, at 4s. 10*d.* the ounce, and "White" plate, 280 ounces, at 4*s.* 4*d.* the ounce. The whole amounted to over three thousand two hundred pounds in modern values. The following valuable articles are described under the head of

"Guilte Plate."

	ozs.
Imprimis, ij standinge cupps of one fashion, wth ij covers, guilte weyinge	39
Item, ij greate Bowles guilte, wth the Lees armes inamelled, weyinge ...	68
Item, one cover to the same, wth a greate Knoppe, and the Leighs armes inamelled	20
Item, one littel sault, wth squares and a cover, guilte, weyinge	8
Item, iiij square Ale potts, wth covers guilte and greaved, weyinge ...	50
Item, one plaine Goblet, weyinge	14
Item, a plaine standinge Cuppe, wth a cover greaved wth Letters, weyinge	25
Item, one handinge Cuppe, ditto, ditto, weyinge	25
Item, ij standinge Saults, wth the Covers greaved wth the scallope shell, weyinge	30
Item, a high standinge Cuppe, of silver guilte imboste and wrought wth flowers, wth a Cover, ditto, ditto, weyinge	20

In the earlier periods the salt cellars were an important feature; being regarded with some superstitious feeling, it was considered desirable to place them as the first article on the table after laying the cloth.

"Percelle Guilte" Plate.

	ozs.
Item, two present potts, weyinge	75
Item, a neste of greate Bowles pounced,[33] wth the Covers to the same, graved wth Letters, weyinge	112
Item, one yeawre, wth ij Spoutes and a Cover, weyinge	20
Item, 2 saults, wth one Cover pounced wth dropps. Item, a little sault and cover, weyinge	49
Item, one Cup wth cover. Item, one peece swadged worke, weyinge ...	28
Item, a peper box, 4 oz. Item, one Challice wth a pattene, 9 oz., weyinge	13

	ozs.
Item, eleven spoones, wth mayden hedds,[34] and syxe wth Lyons hedds, weyinge	23
Item, 5 oulde spoons, wth Knopps, ...	4
Item, 8 trenchers wth a borde aboute, weyinge	77
Item, 3 Candlesticks, wth 2 snoffers a peece, and pykes [35] for wax candles, weyinge	73
Item, one Basson, wth a Rose [36] in the bottome, weyinge	36
Item, one Ale pott, wth a Cover, wreathed worke, weyinge	7
Item, a pronge, wth a littell spoone wreathed haulf waye, and ditto, ditto, wth a Lyon at the end, wreathed, weyinge	3
Item, to Damaske stoole worke of Silver, more in bondles, wth rose spangles, and a bondell of silver Tissewe, weyinge	60

"Wight" Plate.

Imprimis, one Ale pott wth a Cover, 13 oz. Item, two plain white peeces, 20 oz., weyinge	33
Item, one white peece, wth a rose in the bottom, weyinge	7
Item, 2 flagons wth chanies, one of them lackinge service,[37] weyinge ...	119
Item, certaine parcelles of oulde silver, weyinge	94
Item, an Ingott of silver, 20 oz. Item, a Shippmassis whistell, 4 oz., weyinege	24
Item, 12 buttons, for a Jerkin of silver, blacke inamelled, weyinge ...	1

Gold Plate.

The "Gold" plate consisted of "55 paire of inamelled Agletts, and buttons for capps, part in acorne fashion and water woorke,[38] and weyinge 20 oz."

Together with sundry articles stored away in the "Copploffts" were the following supplies of pewter :—

	£	s.	d.
Imprimis, newe vessells of all sorts, weyinge 32 lbs. weight, at 6*d*. the pounde	8	0	12
Item, ould vessells of all sorts, serviceable, weyinge 204 lbs., at 5*d*. the pounde	4	5	0
Item, broken vessells, 86 lbs. weight, at 4*d*. the pounde	1	8	8
Item, eight panes, weyinge 106 lbs.	2	0	0
Sum Total	£15	14	8

There were two "Kyttchins," the "upper one" being a sort of scullery, and having in it "a large furnace of Brasse, conteyninge by estimacion 12 bushells, the which is corbed [39] about wth woode and wth clamps of iron and lead," 30*s*. 0*d*.

Item, a masshe vatte of 20 bushells, a hoppe basket of wyker, and two bucking (*i.e.*, washing) Tubbs ... ... 12s. 0d.

The "Kyttchin" proper was provided with a large open fire grate, and amongst the various utensils mentioned were the following articles :

Imprimis, ij crosse barres and one longe barre of iron, wth 4 cotterells (*i.e.*, the hook to which the pot or kettle was hung over the fire). Item, ij backs (plates) of iron, under the mantell of the chymneye, 3 pair of pothooks, 2 long Andirons without hedds, wth divers crooks of 5 foote longe, a fire pronge and shovell wth socketts, 6 grete Brotches (spits) and 2 birde ditto, 4 drippinge pannes wth handles and leggs, 2 fryinge pannes, etc.

Brasse. Item, ij morters, the one bigger than the other, one grete potte wth 3 leggs, conteyninge 12 gawnes, 3 others, one of 8, of 5, and 3 of a gallon each, 7 kettells, ranging in size from ten gallons down to one, two skilletts, four Chafin dishes, wth the other usual kitchen accessories, and valued together at £5. 1s. 6d.

In "the Wett and Drye" larders were "ij hoggeshedds wth covers for powderinge (*i.e., salting*) vessells, several salting tubs, ditto for washing meate in, one long kever[40] to salt bacon in, and one to put Tallow in. The "drye larder" had barrells to put oatmeal in, ditto for salting meate, 8 sowsinge[41] panns, one littel tubb to powder (salt) lard in.

Rats at this period were evidently a nuisance, since reference is made to "a Tressell to defend[42], wth a tray upon hym."

	s.	d.
The contents of the Brewhouse were valued at	39	4
,, ,, ,, Maulte House ,, ,, ,, ...	21	8
,, ,, ,, Dairye ,, ,, ,, ...	14	6

The bed chambers of the outdoor servants, judging from the valuation, were plainly furnished, "the Bayliff's" 10*s.*, "the Hind's," with three beds, 7*s.*, "the Stable," with two, 10*s.*, "Prowts" 2*s.* 6*d.*, and the "Oxtaule" at 2*s.* 2*d.*

"The Buttery" concludes the catalogue of the more important items. The articles were probably for daily use:—

"8 newe Bowle candlesticks, wth plaine or turned feete, 15 others of sundry sorts, 15 saults and 21 spones for household, 2 basons wth yeares to them, 23 stone jugges, 7 leather bottles of various sizes, 3 dozen trenchers of the best sort, and 4 dozen ditto of Beetche (wood) for the household. Linen—11 Table clothes 22*s.*, 15 coarse do. 16*s.*, 10 cupboard do. of diverse sorts 6*s.* 8*d.*, 21 lardge table napkins 6*s.* 8*d.*, 7 dozen other napkins of sundry sorts 16*s.*, 20 towells 14*s.*"

The contents, valued together, were worth £6. 2*s.* 10*d.* at that period.

There are a few short references to the stable department, from which the following items have been extracted:—One Harnesse for a saddle of Crimson Vellot, wth guilte boccles, freindged, ditto of redd vellot wth roses of goulde wyer upon them, ditto ditto freindged wth greene and white silke, ditto wth letters of goulde E.L., 2 grete bitts for brydells, and one paire of great copper stirrups."

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES, &c.

1. Saye—kind of silk or serge cloth. O. Fr. *say*.
2. Arrace worke—tapestry fabric, in which figures and scenes were woven. So called from Arras in Artois, a town famed for its manufacture.
3. Brode—"broad cloth." Term originally used to denote that the width was 29 inches, all of less width being known as "narrow cloth."
4. Hypocrisse—possible Hypocrisy, representation of allegorical figure well known in the Moralities of the Middle Ages.
5. Fleminge—Fleming, native of Flanders, or can it be a flamingo?
6. Collayne lute—a lute made in Cologne.
7. Gitthorne, or gitern—an old instrument strung with wire, a guitar.

8. Virginalls—resembling a harpsichord, but having only one string, a musical instrument popular in England in the 16th and 17th centuries, so-called because commonly used by young girls.
9. Tester—the framed top of four-post bedsteads, sometimes with material stretched on it, forming a sort of canopy.
10. Pawne—a division—a pane of cloth, of fur, of glass, or any material or design.
11. Tawney—yellowish brown colour.
12. Vellet—velvet.
13. Pownced—ornamented or pricked with designs.
14. Sarcanet—Sarsenet—Saracenicum—Saracen, a fine silk fabric, originally made by the Saracens.
15. Yearne—yarn, woollen thread.
16. Seeled—closed.
17. Bruschian—possibly from brusk, an heraldic term meaning tawny, but a material rather than a colour seems to be implied.
18. Fuschian—fustian, a name derived from Fosbat, a suburb of Cairo, whence this fabric was first brought; a coarse cotton stuff.
19. Cruell—crewel, fine worsted used in embroidery.
20. Welt—a strip of material fastened along an edge.
21. Taffata—in 16th century thick and costly silk.
22. Brainched—probably branched, an heraldic term, as a deer's horns, here meaning embroidered with a running pattern.
23. Kerseye—coarse woollen cloth; Scotch, *carsage*; Germ., *kersei*.
24. Bridges—Bruges.
25. Spruce—made of spruce fir, pine wood.
26. Dornax—stout linen cloth with a simple pattern, from Tournay, called Dornack in Belgium, where it was originally made.
27. Pawnes—alternate squares or other devices. See 10.
28. Dudd—sort of hood or cloak worn in the 16th century.
29. Pillchers—pillow-cases.
30. Kerseys—a piece of Kersey or coarse woollen cloth 17—18 yards long. See 23.
31. Mockadowe—mocado—material made of wool, silk, and flax, similar to velveteen, sometimes called mock velvet.
32. Sanctus bell—bell rung at the celebration of the Mass to give notice of the more solemn parts of the service.
33. Pounced—here beaten out *repoussé*. See 13.
34. Mayden hedds—possibly ornamented with the head or bust of the Virgin Mary.
35. Pykes—spikes on which to fix candles.
36. Rose—circular plate or basin ornamented with a Tudor rose.
37. Lackinge service—unfit for use.
38. Water woorke—of a wavy pattern.
39. Corbed—Fr., *courbé*, bent round with hoops.
40. Kever—a brewing vessel, here used as a pickling vat.
41. Sowsinge—pans in which to pickle the bacon.
42. Defend—keep off.

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